CHELMSFORD
COUNTY HIGH
SCHOOL
WITHDRAWN
BOOK

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WILD HYACINTH.

WILD FLOWERS.

BY ANNE PRATT,

AUTHOR OF COMMON THINGS OF THE SEA-SIDE, ETC. ETC.

"By the breath of flowers
Thou callest us from city throngs and cares,
Back to the woods, the birds, the mountain streams,
That sing of Thee! back to free childhood's heart,
Fresh with the dews of tenderness! Thou bidd'st
The lilies of the field with placid smile
Reprove man's feverish strivings, and infuse
Through his worn soul a more unworldly life,
With their soft holy breath. Thou hast not left
His purer nature, with its fine desires,
Uncared for in this universe of Thine."

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Wild Flowers.

WILD HYACINTH.—*Hyacinthus non-scriptus.*

Class Hexandria. *Order* Monogynia. *Nat. Ord.* Liliaceæ. Lily Tribe.

Every child who has wandered in the woods in the sweet months of April and May knows the Blue-Bell, or Wild Hyacinth. Scarcely a copse can be found throughout our land which is not then blue with its flowers, for it is to the woodland and the green lane, in Spring, what the buttercup is to the meadow. Growing near it we often find the beautiful pinkish-white blossoms of the wood-anemone, and before it fades away the hedges are getting white, and becoming fragrant with wreaths of the blooming May; but the primroses have almost all departed, and the violets are daily more rare. The root of the Wild Hyacinth is round, and full of a poisonous, clammy juice; indeed every part of the plant gives out more

or less of this juice if we bruise it. Though the root is unfit for food, and is useless to us now, yet in former times it was much prized. In days when very stiff ruffs were worn, the juice was made into starch, and employed to stiffen linen. It served the bookbinder, too, as glue, to fasten the covers of books. The flower has a slight scent, but the chief charms of the Blue-Bell are its beauty and its early appearance. It is but lately that we have looked upon bare trees, and ground strewed with withered leaves, and when no songs of joy were heard; and now the early flowers seem to say, in the language of Scripture, "The winter is past; the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time for the singing of birds is come; and the voice of the turtle is heard in the land." Our Wild Hyacinth is sometimes found with white or flesh-coloured flowers, but the beautiful garden hyacinths, with double blossoms, are brought from different countries of the East.

COMMON BROOM.—*Cytissus Scoparius.*

Class DIADELPHIA. *Order* DECANDRIA. *Nat. Ord.* LEGUMINOSÆ. PEA AND BEAN TRIBE.

As the wood has flowers peculiar to it, and the meadow and the cornfield have each their own blossoms, so there are some plants which flourish especially on heaths and commons. Far away, over many a heath-land, we may see the bright golden blossoms of the "bonnie broom:" and if, on some sunny day in July, we stray among them, we may see the large dark-brown Broom-pods opening to let out their ripe seeds. The blossoms seem to invite the butterflies to linger about them, and the bees keep a perpetual humming near them. The Broom is useful also to man. Sometimes when roads are cut down it is planted on the sides of the banks, that its roots may hold the crumbling earth together. The bark is steeped in water, that its fibres may be used instead of flax, and the small twigs and branches are serviceable in tanning leather. The young boughs are made into brooms, and the young green buds are pickled in vinegar, and eaten as capers. When the shrub attains a good size

its wood is hard, and is valuable to the cabinet-maker for veneering. The plant varies much in height, according to the soil and situation on which it grows. When it is found on exposed heaths, it is usually a low shrub; but when it springs up on some sunny hill-side, or is sheltered by a neighbouring rock or thicket, it is sometimes ten or twelve feet high. It is always an ornamental plant, for when its flowers have passed away, its dark green leaves and twigs remain. Wordsworth well describes it:—

"Am I not
In truth a favour'd plant?
On me such bounty summer showers,
That I am cover'd o'er with flowers;
And when the frost is in the sky,
My branches are so fresh and gay,
That you might look on me and say—
'This plant can never die.'"

GERMANDER SPEEDWELL.

GERMANDER SPEEDWELL.—*Veronica Chamædrys.*

Class MONANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* SCROPHULARINEÆ.—FIGWORT TRIBE.

THIS flower is often, by persons little acquainted with plants, called the Forget-me-not. In some places it is called Cat's Eye; but it is one of the numerous family of the Speedwells. These plants, whether growing in field or garden, may all be known from any others by this peculiarity, that the blossom, which is cleft into four segments, has always the lower segment narrower than the rest. We have no less than eighteen wild kinds. They are all blue or flesh-coloured flowers; but the Germander is the largest of all the common species. Among our spring flowers it is most conspicuous, its brilliant blue blossoms lying like gems among the bright May grass. At that time,

> "The gorse is yellow on the heath,
> The banks with Speedwell flowers are gay,
> The oak is budding, and beneath,
> The hawthorn soon will wear the wreath,
> The silver wreath of May."

Though an early-blooming flower, yet some of

its tribe are earlier still. Thus the Ivy-leaved Speedwell, with light blue blossoms, and leaves shaped like those of the ivy, is very common in cultivated lands, and among hedges; and if March is fine, it may be found then, while it is sure to be abundant in April. Country people call it Winter-weed; but the Procumbent Speedwell, a plant with very small blue blossoms, and stems which lie along the ground, is the first of all the Speedwells, and comes amidst the winds and rains of early spring-time. The Speedwells are not now considered to possess medicinal properties; but they were once believed to yield valuable remedies, and were called by the Dutch, Honour and Praise. Several of the species grow in streams and water-courses. That common flower of the stream-side, the Brooklime Speedwell, with its smooth fleshy leaves, and brilliant blue flowers, was formerly eaten in salads. Its pungent leaves are still mingled with water-cresses, and sold in Scotland. This plant is called by botanists Veronica Beccabunga, and appears to have derived its name from the Flemish Beck-pungen, Mouth-smart.

BIRD'S-FOOT TREFOIL.—*Lotus corniculatus.*

Class DIADELPHIA. *Order* DECANDRIA. *Nat. Ord.* LEGUMINOSÆ. PEA AND BEAN TRIBE.

THE rich green verdure of the summer meadow is everywhere brightened by this pretty little blossom, which country children call by the old familiar names of Lady's-slipper, or Pattens-and-clogs. The ancient Greek authors wrote much of the Lotus, but it appears that they had three plants which they called by that name. This, however, was one. Several kinds of the Bird's-foot Trefoil grow not only in the sunny meads of the Greek Isles, but are abundant in most parts of Southern Europe; and the pods of one species, which is much larger than our common plant, are a useful article of diet among the poorer inhabitants of Candia. The seeds of our native species furnish food for birds only. This plant, as well as another British kind, the Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot Trefoil, is very useful for making a permanent pasture for cattle, and is sometimes sown with the white clover. The

narrow-leaved species is much like the common kind, but is larger: it grows in moist, bushy places, and by the sides of streams and rivers, and its stems are more straggling. We have altogether four wild species of the Bird's-foot Trefoil. The rare plant, called the Narrow-podded Bird's-foot Trefoil, which is found on a few rocky places by the sea-coast, is, in one variety, altogether much smaller than either of the others, and somewhat different in its general appearance. There is a very pretty tiny flower on our sandy and gravelly soils, called the Bird's-foot, with white, pea-shaped blossoms, marked with red lines, which is often mistaken for a Lotus: but this belongs to a different genus of plants, and is not a Trefoil, having about six or seven pairs of leaflets on its leaf-stalk. Flowers formed like these are called *papilionaceous*, or butterfly-shaped, and plants with these blossoms have their seeds in pods.

SCARLET PIMPERNEL.

SCARLET PIMPERNEL.—*Anagallis arvensis.*

Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* PRIMULACEÆ. PRIMROSE TRIBE.

EVERY one knows the Scarlet Pimpernel, our only wild flower of that colour, except the scarlet poppy; though there are one or two of a crimson tint, like the pheasant's-eye of the cornfield. The Pimpernel grows everywhere; on the sandy heath among the furze and broom, on the bank by the road, and especially among the ripening corn, it may be seen, on any sunny day, during July and August. It has some pretty English names, as the Shepherd's Barometer, or the Shepherd's Warning, and the Poor-man's Weather-glass. These names are expressive of the influence that a moist atmosphere has upon the blossom, which is so sensitive, that long before we can be aware of the approach of rain, it closes up; and it does not open at all upon a wet or even cloudy day, a circumstance which was early noticed by Sir Francis Bacon. It gives us no warning, however, after

the middle of the day, for within two or three minutes of two o'clock it closes its petals, which remain folded until about seven the next morning. The botanical name is taken from a Greek word, signifying, to laugh; because the ancient Greek writers believed it to be a useful medicine in liver complaints, and thus favourable to good and cheerful spirits. Though it is not found, in our times, to deserve this praise, yet its pleasant aspect and love of sunshine render its name a suitable one. A large number of seeds are inclosed in little capsules, which, when ripe, burst open all round transversely, and the seeds afford a valuable supply of food to many of our song birds. There is a blue variety of this Pimpernel, which, though rare in many places, is very abundant in others, especially in Gloucestershire; and sometimes we may find a Pimpernel quite white, with a distinct purplish-pink eye in the centre of the blossom. There is also another species, a beautiful rose-coloured flower, which grows on moist mossy places, and is called the Bog Pimpernel.

HONEYSUCKLE.—*Lonicera Periclymenum.*

Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* CAPRIFOLIACEÆ. WOODBINE TRIBE.

THERE is hardly a wild flower of our hedge-rows which delights us more by its fragrance than does the Honeysuckle. During May and June its blossoms are waving about the bushes, or creeping over the old ruin or rocky crag, in all parts of our island, and we wonder not that poets, both ancient and modern, have sung of their sweetness. It had the old name of Woodbine, but both Spenser and Shakspeare call it by the older name of Caprifole, or Goat-leaf, which was given because, like the goat, it climbs over craggy and almost inaccessible places; or, as some writers say, because these animals relish the leaves. It has a similar name in other countries, for the French term it Chèvre-feuille, and the Italians Caprifoglio. At the base of its long tubular flower lies the honey, which though the bee may not reach it, is extracted by the long tongues of the sphynxes and hawk-moths, that may often be seen hovering about it. After

the blossom has withered, in the months of September and October, clusters of dark red berries take their place. They are very insipid in flavour, and are eaten only by children and birds, but they add to the beauty of the autumn woods and hedges. Plants which climb around others, or on walls, always in the same species take the same direction in twining. Thus some plants, like the Honeysuckle, and indeed the greater number of our British climbers, follow the apparent course of the sun, and turn from left to right; while others are invariable in their habit of turning in the contrary way. There are two other species of wild Honeysuckle, but, unlike this, they are not common. One is the pale Perfoliate Honeysuckle, which has been found in woods in Oxfordshire and Cambridgeshire; and the other the still more rare upright Fly Honeysuckle.

HERB ROBERT, OR POOR ROBIN.

Geranium Robertianum.

Class MONADELPHIA. *Order* DECANDRIA. *Nat. Ord.* GERANIACEÆ. GERANIUM TRIBE.

THERE are very few flowers of our native land which are more frequent than this pink Cranesbill. A very beautiful little flower it is, too; growing in the summer months, under the bushes, on the sunny bank, among the grass of the crag or cliff, and smiling on the summit of the ruined wall, or beneath the broad deep shadow of the woodland trees. When it grows on exposed situations, the stems and leaves have a rich crimson colour; and often in autumn, when they linger on the bank long after the blossoms have passed away, they are almost as beautiful as the flowers themselves. The whole of this plant is very hairy, and its stems are brittle. Its odour cannot be praised, and after the flower has been long gathered, it becomes very disagreeable. This scent is caused by a peculiar resinous secretion, which exists in this and several other species of Cranesbill. In some of the species of other lands, the resin is so powerful, that if a light be applied to the stems, they will burn like torches, and will yield, during the process of combustion,

a very powerful and pleasant perfume. The Herb Robert is sometimes found with pure white flowers. Not only are the small bright stars of this species scattered by our pathways, but no less than twelve other wild Cranesbills, almost all of them common plants, delight the lovers of wild flowers: they have all red or purplish blossoms. A very common kind, which appears early in April, and blooms on till August, must be known to all accustomed to notice wild plants, for it is frequent on every bank or waste place, and in every pasture. It has long spreading stems, and broad roundish leaves, deeply cut into segments. These leaves are of a pale grey-green, and downy as velvet. The flowers are very small, and of a purplish-red colour. We call it Dove's-foot Cranesbill, and the French term it also Pied de Pigeon. A great number of Cranesbills are cultivated in our gardens. One of these, the large purple-flowered Cranesbill, is common in many woods and thickets, and is not unfrequent in those in the neighbourhood of London. It is a tall plant, with handsome dark-blue flowers, as large as a shilling piece.

COMMON MALLOW

COMMON MALLOW.—*Malva sylvestris.*

Class Monadelphia. *Order* Polyandria. *Nat. Ord.* Malvaceæ. Mallow Tribe.

This Mallow is very common throughout England, though it is rare in Scotland. Children call its young circular fruits cheeses; hence, in some country places, the plant is called cheese-flower. The large handsome blossoms adorn our lanes and fields, and cluster in beauty on our waste places, from June until August. The leaves are cut into seven lobes, and are roundish in form; but not so much so as in the species called the Dwarf or Round-leaved Mallow. Both our wild and cultivated Mallows are useful in medicine, on account of the mucilage which they contain. The leaves are also boiled, and used by country-people as an application to wounds and bruises. Mallow tea is a medicine much taken in Paris, not only for coughs and colds, but for a variety of maladies. Several species were used as food by the Romans, though which particular kinds they praise so highly we cannot now determine.

This common species is cultivated in gardens in Rosetta, and, boiled with meat, is one of the most common dishes of Lower Egypt. The patriarch Job speaks of the destitute persons who cut up Mallows by the root; and though we know not exactly the plant intended, yet we know that in Arabia, and other Eastern lands, Mallows are much eaten by the poor. Our common Mallow has a smaller quantity of mucilage than the plant of our sea-shores, called the Marsh Mallow. This, however, belongs to the genus termed by the botanist Althæa.

Besides the common, we have the Dwarf and Musk Mallows. The latter is a tall flower, with large handsome rose-coloured blossoms, which, as well as the foliage, are fragrant in the evening. It is very abundant on many pasture-lands of our country: but in some places very rare. The Dwarf Mallow is a more frequent kind, and may be easily known by its roundish leaves, and small pale lilac flowers. These plants bloom from June to September.

FIELD CONVOLVULUS.—*Convolvulus arvensis.*

Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* CONVOLVULACEÆ. CONVOLVULUS TRIBE.

ONE of the prettiest, though certainly one of the most short-lived of all our twining wild flowers, is the Field Convolvulus, or, as it is often called in country places, the Bear-bind, Withy-wind, or Bindweed. Its botanic name is taken from Convolvo, to entwine; and those who have noticed its elegant wreaths of leaves and flowers, will acknowledge that all these names are significant of its habit. The pink delicate bells have a sweet scent, much like that of almonds. Pretty as this plant is, it is not welcomed by the farmer, for it intrudes itself into all cultivated lands; winding its tough and curling stems around the corn stalks, catching fast hold of peas or beans, or any plant near it, and sending its perennial and creeping root far into the soil. There the roots grow very fast, throwing out numerous shoots from all parts; and no care of the agriculturist can prevent their spreading extensively over the field. When it covers a

hedge-bank, however, as it often does, its pink cups opening only to the sunshine, it is a beautiful adornment to the summer landscape, and bees hover and hum about it continually. Its presence is considered as a certain indication of a light soil, and its time for blooming is in the months of June and July. Besides this pretty pink Convolvulus, there is a much larger kind, equally common in our woods and hedges. This is the greater Bindweed. We often see it hanging its large snowy bells over the trees and shrubs of the garden, and it is an ornamental plant, though, like the smaller species, a very troublesome weed to the agriculturist. It is not often a companion of the pink flower, as it flourishes chiefly in the neighbourhood of streams and other moist places. It is called by country people, Old Man's Nightcap. There is also a wild Convolvulus on our sea-shores, called the Sea Bindweed, with large rose coloured flowers and succulent leaves.

BUTTERCUP.—*Ranunculus bulbosus.*

Class POLYANDRIA. *Order* POLYGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* RANUNCULACEÆ. CROWFOOT TRIBE.

THIS gay meadow flower gives to the landscape a bright and cheerful aspect, when May has scattered it by thousands over the grassy meadow, where it contrasts with the multitude of silver daisies. This flower has an acrid bulbous root, which is emetic in its properties. Rather later in the year, two other species of crowfoot or buttercup glisten in the grass of the meads, and by every way-side; these are the Creeping Crowfoot, and the Upright Meadow Crowfoot. Both are very similar in their appearance to this flower, but the small leaves forming the flower cup are, in the bulbous species, always turned back and drooping. All the Crowfoots contain much acridity, and they are mostly disliked by cattle on this account. The June or Creeping Buttercup is a very noxious plant on pasture-lands, for it has creeping roots which render it very difficult of extermination, and if the cattle happen to eat it, it will blister their mouths. There is a little yellow Buttercup, growing on tall slender

stalks in the corn-field, during June, and known as the Corn Crowfoot, which is eaten with avidity by cattle, but which is a highly dangerous plant for their food. Some sheep which fed upon it, in meadows near Turin, were killed by its poison; and a French chemist ascertained that three ounces of its juice proved fatal to a dog in the course of four minutes after swallowing it. It may be known by the very large and prickly seed vessels which succeed the flower. There is another species, the Celery-leaved Crowfoot, with stout juicy stems, bright glossy leaves, and very small yellow flowers, common at the sides of streams and ditches. If this flower is laid on the skin, it will quickly raise a blister; nor is it even safe to carry a handful of the plant to any distance, as the hand is likely to become much inflamed in consequence. We have fifteen species of wild Crowfoot. The old writers called them King-cups, Gold-cups, Cuckoo-buds, and Mary-buds. The juice of the bulbous Crowfoot, if applied to the nostrils, causes sneezing.

SWEET VIOLET.—*Viola odorata.*

Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* VIOLACEÆ. VIOLET TRIBE.

THE sweet blue and white Violets are among the first favourites of our childhood. We find them in March; hence our old writers called them the March Violet; but they are still more abundant in April than in the earlier month. They grow on way-sides, and many a copse-wood in England might remind us of the poet's description :—

> "There purple violets lurk,
> With all the lovely children of the shade."

But it is not poets only who have praised the Violet. Mahomet said of it that it excelled all other flowers; and in Eastern lands it is continually referred to as an image of sweetness. The modern Arabians compare the eyelids to a Violet dropping dew; and the odour of its half-hidden flower makes it a fit emblem of modesty. The sweet Violet is a native of every part of Europe. Lane, in his "Arabian Nights," says sherbet is made of the Violet by pounding the flowers and boiling them

with sugar. In Palestine it blooms with the Narcissus as early as the twentieth of January; and it is in full flower during winter in the palm groves of Barbary, and in Japan and China. This flower was formerly cultivated, for medicinal uses, in great quantities at Stratford-upon-Avon, and the syrup of Violets is still used by chemists to detect the presence of an acid or alkali. The scentless species called the Dog Violet has a much larger and brighter flower, which grows on longer stalks, so that, instead of hiding itself among the leaves, it often renders the bank of a lilac tint by its blossoms. It begins to bloom in March or April, and remains in flower long after the sweet species has disappeared. There are six other kinds of wild Violet, including the little Pansy or Heartsease of our fields; and so numerous are Violets in other lands, that more than a hundred species have been recorded. Not one of them, however, has a sweeter scent than the fragrant flower of our woodlands. Besides the white variety of this Violet, we see it of pale blue, lilac, or even red.

COMMON PURPLE TREFOIL.

COMMON PURPLE TREFOIL.

Trifolium pratense.

Class DIADELPHIA. *Order* DECANDRIA. *Nat. Ord.* LEGUMINOSÆ. PEA AND BEAN TRIBE.

THE sweet purple Clover, how pleasant it makes our summer walk by its perfume! and it is so attractive to the bees that one always sees these insects gathering about the pastures where it abounds. This is the Clover so much cultivated for hay, the plant which the Anglo-Saxons called *cloeferwort*, because of its cleft leaves; from which also it has the name of Trefoil. The triple leaf was, in former days, in much repute as a charm against magic, and our Clover was said by old writers to be not only "good for cattle, but noisome to witches." Happily, we of later generations are no believers in such superstitions; but there was a day when not only the simple villager, but the knight, wore the leaf on his arm, under the notion that it rendered him safe from charms and spells. The poet alludes to this old practice:—

"Woe, woe to the wight who meets the green knight,
Except, on his faulchion arm,
Spell-proof he bear, like the brave St. Clair,
The holy Trefoil's charm."

We have seventeen species of wild Trefoil. Several of them are purple, and some are bright yellow, or of a pale brimstone colour, or white. The little yellow Trefoil is so common that every one knows it. It is shaped like the Clover, but the heads of the flowers are not larger than a currant. The Common White, or Dutch Clover, is to be found in every pasture land, and is also cultivated for its useful herbage. Indeed, this White Clover and our common purple species are two of the most valuable herbage plants used in European agriculture, and they will grow on any soils, though thriving best on dry chalky lands. The white head of flowers in the Dutch Clover is upright, but the partial flower-stalks bend down when the blossom withers, so that the little pods which hold the seeds hang covered with the petals of the dead flowers. This plant is, by many writers, considered to be the ancient shamrog, the badge of Ireland; but others believe the original plant to have been the Wood-sorrel.

WOOD STRAWBERRY.

WOOD STRAWBERRY.—*Fragaria vesca.*

Class Icosandria. *Order* Polygynia. *Nat. Ord.* Rosaceæ. Rose Tribe.

The Strawberry is to be found in most of the woods and thickets of our island, and its white blossom is among the flowers of May and the two following months. As early as March, however, we may gather a plant so similar to it, both in flower and leaf, that only a botanist would mark the difference between them. This is the Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla Fragariastrum*), which grows on woods, banks, and dry pastures. Unlike our wild Strawberry flower, however, it is succeeded by no rich fruit. Our native fruits are few, and the Strawberry is the best and sweetest of them all, and indeed is unrivalled, for its wholesome qualities, by any fruit either wild or cultivated. Country children well know its worth, but the larger Strawberries reared in gardens are so much more in use for desserts, that the wild species is rarely sold in towns. In France, Strawberries are used not only, as with us, as a fruit for the table and for preserves, but for making an agreeable

drink, called *Bavaroise à la Grecque*, which consists of the juice mingled with lemon, sugar, and water. The sweet odour of the Strawberry well deserves the allusion made to it in its botanical name, which is taken from *fragrans;* while our familiar one of Strawberry was probably given to it from the old practice of threading the fruits on a straw, and thus offering them for sale, a practice still followed in some villages. If we remove our wild Strawberry from the shade of the woodland boughs, and plant it in a garden where the sun can reach it, its flavour becomes sweeter. It was probably the first species cultivated in this country, and the Strawberry was reared in the English garden at an early period. Lidgate's song, composed at a date previous to the year 1483, shows that it was sold in London about that time.

"Then unto London I did me hye,
Of all the lands it beareth the pryse;
Gode pescode owne began to cry,
Strabery rype, and cherrys in the ryse."

The Hautboy is sometimes found in our woods, but is probably not truly wild.

WOOD ANEMONE.—*Anemone nemorosa.*

Class POLYANDRIA. *Order* POLYGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* RANUNCULACEÆ. CROWFOOT TRIBE.

How pleasant are the woodlands during April and May, with the gentle waving of the young leaves, the song of joyous birds, and the sweet odours of violets, primroses, and other spring flowers! Then the Blue-bell waves to every breath of wind, and the Celandine glistens like gold, and the delicate Stitchwort bends so low as the wind passes over it, that we can hardly believe it will be left unharmed by the breeze.

But not one of these blossoms is more beautiful than that of our Wood Anemone, the Wind-flower of the older writers, and which is still called by this poetical name in some parts of our country. Whether it was named thus because it grows in the mountainous woods where the wildest winds blow, as well as in the sheltered valley; or whether because its petals are so light and delicate that the wind soon ruffles them, we know not. In many woods it is very plentiful, its light seed being wafted by the spring winds, and

its tough roots creeping extensively underneath the surface of the soil.

We have, besides this, three wild species of Anemone, all of them beautiful to look upon, but all possessing very acrimonious, and several of them highly poisonous properties. Some of the species which grow on American pastures are well known to prove fatal to cattle. All our wild Anemones are in bloom during April and May, but no species is so common as that represented by the engraving. The beautiful Pasque-flower Anemone (*Anemone Pulsatilla*) is not, however, a rare flower in some counties, where chalky soils abound; the blossom, which is much larger than that of the Wood Anemone, is of a delicate lilac colour. It is very silky, and its tint is so elegant that it is a favourite garden flower also.

The light blue Mountain Anemone (*Anemone Apennina*) is so rare a wild flower, that perhaps it ought rather to be regarded as having escaped from some garden near the spot where it may be found; and the yellow Wood Anemone (*Anemone ranunculoides*) is almost equally rare. It has a bright yellow blossom.

FURZE.—*Ulex Europæus.*

Class DIADELPHIA. *Order* DECANDRIA. *Nat. Ord.* LEGUMINOSÆ.
PEA AND BEAN TRIBE.

WE are accustomed to look upon our common Gorse or Whin as one of the hardiest of plants; and, growing upon our bleakest commons, and bearing well the sea-breeze, so unfavourable to plants in general, it might really seem to be so. Yet great heat or cold is alike unfavourable to this plant, and it will not thrive further to the south of Europe than Provence, while in the regions of the north it is unknown as a wild flower. In Russia it is sometimes reared in the greenhouse, and it is also regarded in Sweden as a tender plant. What wonder, then, that when the great Swedish naturalist saw our heaths covered with it, it filled him with joy;

> "For Linnæus
> Knelt before it on the sod,
> For its beauty thanking God."

The common Furze is to be seen on almost every heath, and gladdens many a sunny bank. Goldsmith calls it "the blossomed Furze, unprofitably gay;" yet it is useful to birds, and

bees, and butterflies, and many another living creature. But besides this, the young shoots afford a good pasture for cattle; and Knapp observes, that on several downs in Wales, Devon, and Cornwall, the Furze-bushes assume commonly the appearance of large green dense balls; every tender leaf being constantly shorn down by sheep and rabbits. The roots of the Furze are useful, too, in binding loose soil, and the plant is often grown on hill-sides for this purpose.

Several of our poets refer to the golden blossoms of the Furze, which are to be seen gleaming in beauty, even when cold winds and snow have withered almost all other flowers. These remain,

"A token to the wintry earth that beauty liveth still."

The common Gorse begins to bloom in May, and is beautiful even late in autumn; while the dwarf species, (*Ulex nanus*,) which is very like this, but smaller, blossoms in autumn: but the flowers of both species may sometimes be gathered throughout the winter.

CRAB APPLE

CRAB APPLE.—*Pyrus Malus.*

Class ICOSANDRIA. *Order* PENTAGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* ROSACEÆ. ROSE TRIBE.

FEW, indeed, are the wild fruit-trees of our land, and fewer still are those which can claim to be true natives of our soil, for some of those now growing wild were introduced by the Romans. The Crab Apple, however, is a truly British plant, and its richly tinted blossoms grace our spring woodlands, and the fruit is ornamental at a later season of the year. Our wild apple is of little use, save that its juice forms the verjuice of commerce; yet the harsh austere crab of the wild tree is the origin of all the valuable apples, the blossoms of which render the orchard grounds of some counties so beautiful.

Besides the many uses which we, in modern days, make of the Apple, it was employed for many others by our ancestors. Thus, a cosmetic was formerly made from the juice, and in some diseases physicians prescribed, as a remedy, that the patient should hold, both sleeping and

waking, a sweet apple in his hand, as its odour was considered healthful. The old herbalist, Gerarde, also tells us of a valuable ointment made in his time of the pulp of apples, lard, and rosewater, which was called pomatum, from *pomum*, an apple, and was used to beautify the skin. Before the introduction of the hop into this country, cider was in much more general use than it is now; and old writers complain that the use of that plant had "transmuted our wholesome baverage into beer." Cider appears to have been a drink of very old use in this country, and is probably the Sieder of the ancient Britons. There is no doubt that the Apple was cultivated in this land by the Anglo-Saxons; and it is now planted throughout Europe as far as the sixtieth degree of latitude, and in the temperate parts of Asia, and North and South America. It has been observed that the Apple will flourish in the open air in every land in which oaks thrive. The fruit mentioned in Scripture as the Apple is probably the citron.

DOG ROSE.

DOG ROSE.—*Rosa canina.*

Class Icosandria. *Order* Polygynia. *Nat. Ord.* Rosaceæ. Rose Tribe.

In the rich hedges, which in many parts of our island form so beautiful an enclosure to fields, or meadows, there is not, in summer time, a lovelier flower than the Rose. Though smaller in size, and inferior in fragrance, to Roses of sunnier climates, yet are we able, even here, to recognise it as the Queen of small flowers. We have eighteen species of small wild Rose; some of them are rare, but several of them are common flowers, and none more so than the Dog Rose. We wonder, when looking on its beauty, that it should bear a name which seems to imply some inferiority; yet the old poets called it by the still less merited name of Canker. The hips which succeed the flowers form a valuable store of food for birds,—the field-fare, chaffinch, and redwing, especially, feeding chiefly on these and on the berries of the Whitethorn-tree.

Among the other summer Roses, which are not only frequent, but may be easily recognised even by those who are not botanists, are the Sweet Brier Rose, (*Rosa rubiginosa,*) the

Eglantine of the older writers, which may at once be known from all the others by its sweetly-scented leaves; and that pretty wild flower, the Burnet-leaved Rose, (*Rosa spinosissima*,) which is so frequent on heathy lands, and on chalky or sandy soils. The flower is of a delicate cream-colour, sometimes tinged with red, and the shrub seldom more than three feet high, and crowded with small dark green leaves and sharp prickles. The blossoms are very numerous, and the hips, which grow in autumn, are very large, and purple or dark red in colour. Children call them Cat-hips. The Rose is the favourite flower of all lands. In former days, when garlands were hung in churches, in order, as an old writer says, to "attemper the aire, coole and make freshe the place, to the delight and comfort of such as are therein," the Rose was a flower very generally chosen for the purpose; and one of the old books of the church of St. Mary's at Hill, London, contains the following record, made by the churchwardens during the reign of Edward IV.:—

"For Rose garlandis, and woodrowe garlandis, on St. Barnebes day, x j *d.*"

BITING STONECR

BITING STONECROP.—*Sedum acre.*

Class DECANDRIA. *Order* PENTAGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* CRASSULACEÆ.
STONECROP TRIBE.

ANY one who should gather this yellow flower from the old wall, or the rock or sandy ground on which it flourishes, would acknowledge, upon tasting it, the justice of its common name. It is also, besides, called Wall Pepper, on account of its pungent flavour; and so acrid is its juice, that it will raise a blister on the skin if applied to it.

This Stonecrop, as well as some others of our native species, is very ornamental to the stone or brick wall, where it often accompanies the snapdragon, the wallflower, and other plants which require but a small portion of soil for their nutriment. The power of adapting themselves to barren places is partaken by all the genus, of which we have eleven British species. Some of them are handsome plants, with white or purplish flowers, though the greater number have yellow blossoms. All have very fleshy juicy stems and foliage; hence they are enabled to retain a quantity of moisture during drought,

and in places so dry that little is yielded to their roots by the soil. Plants of this kind imbibe moisture readily through their leaves, and part with it slowly, and are thus fitted for sandy deserts, or walls, or rocky places. The Rev. R. W. Evans has drawn a good lesson from our pretty wild flower :—

"There from his rocky pulpit, I heard cry
The Stonecrop : See how loose to earth I grow,
And draw my juicy nurture from the sky :
So draw not thou, fond man, thy root too low,
But loosely clinging here,
From God's supernal sphere
Draw life's unearthly food—catch Heaven's undying glow."

None of the Stonecrops are of great service to man, though some have been used in medicine ; but they have no little value in the eyes of those who reflect that they clothe the most barren soils with a gay mantle, and convert the most dreary spot into a cheerful garden. Most of the species bloom during the months of June and July. The Purple Orpine (*Sedum Telephium*) flowers two months later.

REST-HARROW.—*Ononis arvensis.*

Class DIADELPHIA. *Order* DECANDRIA. *Nat. Ord.* LEGUMINOSÆ. PEA AND BEAN TRIBE.

DURING the months of June, July, and August, this plant is profusely covered with butterfly-shaped flowers. It grows on barren and waste soils, and is often very plentiful on the green patches which occur on chalky cliffs near the sea, as well as on the borders of cultivated lands. When it intrudes itself on cornfields, it becomes a very troublesome plant, for its long and tough roots retard the progress of the plough, while its numerous and thorny branches are so great an impediment to the action of the harrow, as to have obtained for the plant its old English name. Equally old and significant is that by which it is known in France, where it is commonly called Arrête-bœuf. Yet this plant has its uses, for although when in its most thorny state no animal but the donkey feeds upon it, yet on better soils it mingles with the pasture, and is relished by cows, sheep, and goats. The roots are very sweet, and when young have

the flavour of liquorice. The writer was informed by some workmen engaged in making excavations, that they and their fellow-labourers were accustomed to suck the juice from these roots, in order to assuage the thirst induced by hard toil under a summer sun. The young shoots are also sweet and succulent, and in some country places they are boiled and eaten. An old Greek writer mentions, that when pickled, they form an agreeable dish; and in our country they were, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, sometimes thus prepared for the table. They were also formerly used medicinally, and were believed to cure delirium.

The Rest-Harrow is very variable in regard to the number of its thorns. In the most barren soils, where it is even more abundant than on richer lands, the thorns are very numerous, and become woody and strong. This is the case with some other plants, as the Pear-tree and Sloe, which in a wild state bear numerous thorns, but when cultivated are unarmed. The blossoms of this plant are usually rose-coloured, but are sometimes so pale as to be almost white.

IVY-LEAVED TOADFLAX.

IVY-LEAVED TOADFLAX.—*Linaria Cymbalaria.*

Class DIDYNAMIA. *Order* ANGIOSPERMIA. *Nat. Ord.* SCROPHULARINEÆ.—FIGWORT TRIBE.

AMONG the many species of Toadflax which continually meet the eye in the country walk of summer, not one is prettier than this. Creeping over the grey wall of the old ruin, hanging down its thread-like branches from the ancient church-tower, where it fixes its roots in the smallest crevices, its rich, thick green leaves and numerous blossoms form a handsome tapestry with which to hide the decay of the building. The profusion of its pale lilac flowers doubtless suggested the name of Mother of Thousands, by which the plant is known in villages. It is not an uncommon thing to see it trailing downwards from a garden-pot, suspended to the cottage ceiling, or planted in gardens among stonecrops and saxifrages, to cover ornamental rock-work. The leaves are generally more or less tinged, on their under surface, with reddish purple, and the plant has a warm caper-like flavour, and is considered to possess anti-scorbutic properties.

There are six wild, besides many cultivated species of Toadflax. Some of them have flowers no larger than those of our engraving, and one kind, the Least Toadflax, (*Linaria minor*,) a rare plant, but found occasionally on sandy fields, during June and July, has much smaller flowers, of a purplish colour tinged with yellow. But the plant of this genus best known to those who notice wild flowers, is the common yellow Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*). It has blossoms shaped like those of the ivy-leaved species, but much larger, and forming a handsome and conspicuous cluster on the upper part of the stem. They are of a brimstone colour, marked at one part with a deeper yellow tint; and the slender, sea-green leaves are so like those of flax, that that plant might easily, in an early stage of its growth, be mistaken for it. It is abundant in sandy corn-fields, and on hedge-banks, where it attains a height of one or two feet, and though beautiful, is one of the most troublesome weeds to the agriculturist. Some of the garden species of Toadflax are very ornamental border flowers.

LONG PRICKLY-HEADED POPPY.

LONG PRICKLY-HEADED POPPY.

Papaver Argemone.

Class POLYANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* PAPAVERACEÆ. POPPY TRIBE.

THIS scarlet Poppy, though not an unfrequent flower in the cornfield during the month of June, is not the most common of our native species. It may be distinguished from the other kinds by its narrower petals. It is, however, like the large common Scarlet Poppy, *Papaver Rhæas*,) slightly narcotic in its properties, and the foliage of both species has been used as a culinary vegetable. In England the scarlet flowers of our wild poppies are collected and made into a syrup, which is used as an ingredient in soups, gruels, and porridge. The blossoms of all the poppies are very fragile, and on this account the largest of our wild kinds received the specific name of Rhæas, from the Greek word "to flow," or "fall." The whole genus is termed Papaver, from the Celtic word "papa," which signifies the pap or soft food given to infants, among which it

was formerly customary to boil poppy seeds, in order to induce sleep.

We have six wild species of poppy, all growing chiefly in the cornfield, though found too on hedge-banks and road-sides. The common Red Poppy is twice as large as that in the engraving. In some country places it is called Corn Rose. Clare also alludes to it under another familiar conntry name:—

> "Corn Poppies, that in crimson dwell,
> Called Head-aches, from their sickly smell."

The Long Smooth-headed Poppy (*Papaver dubium*) is not a rare flower among the corn. It has a large blossom, but its colour is of a paler scarlet than that of the common poppy. A much rarer species is the Round Rough-headed Poppy, (*Papaver hybridum*,) which is found in some of the chalky and sandy fields of England.

Besides these, we have a yellow poppy, (*Meconopsis Cambrica*,) which grows on rocky places in Devonshire, Wales, and Ireland, and a white poppy, (*Papaver somniferum*,) which grows in some of our cornfields.

WHITE POPPY.

WHITE POPPY.—*Papaver somniferum.*

Class POLYANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* PAPAVERACEÆ. POPPY TRIBE.

THIS elegant Poppy, though less common than the scarlet species, is yet not unfrequent in the fields of Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Kent, and other counties. Some botanists have thought that it grows only on or near lands where it was formerly cultivated; but its abundance in some fields at Sidmouth, as well as in some other places where this was not the case, seem to entitle it to a place among our wild flowers. Although it is now generally to be met with, growing among the weeds of the fields of Southern Europe, it is not improbable that in past ages it was introduced into this quarter of the world from Asia. It was very early cultivated in Greece, probably for the sake of its seeds, which were used as food.

This poppy is very extensively planted in the present day in most European countries, not alone for the opium which is made from its juices, but also for its large round seed-vessel, and for the seeds, from which oil is ex-

tracted. All parts of the plant, except the seeds, contain a narcotic juice, which exists in the greatest quantity in the seed-vessel, and the fields of white poppies that we see on some parts of our landscape are sown for the sake of the capsules, which are used in fomentations to allay pain. They are gathered as they ripen, and as some are matured much later than others, there are often three or four times of gathering during one season.

The White Poppy is grown in Turkey, Persia, and India, for the opium, which though so valuable a remedy for disease, is a most pernicious drug, when taken habitually, or in large quantities. It is the thickened milky juice of the poppy, which in warmer climates is more highly narcotic than when grown in ours. The drug is obtained by making incisions in the capsule at sunset, and in the morning the juice, which has hardened into a kind of gum, is scraped off by women and children, and made into cakes for the purposes of commerce.

STAR-THISTLE.

STAR-THISTLE.—*Centaurea Calcitrapa.*

Class SYNGENESIA. *Order* FRUSTRANEA. *Nat. Ord.* COMPOSITÆ. COMPOUND FLOWERS.

ALTHOUGH this flower bears the name of a thistle, and has somewhat the appearance of one, yet it does not belong to the thistle tribe. The true thistles have their leaves more or less edged with spines, often with spines so sharp that we fear to touch them; but in this plant they are on the flower-cup only. In their early stage of growth they are green and tender; but as they advance to maturity they become hard and woody, and might inflict a deep wound on the hand which rashly seized them.

The name by which this flower is distinguished from the other species of Centaurea, has an allusion to the spiny calyx. *Calcitrapa* is the Latin word for the Caltrop, or iron ball covered with thick spines, which was used of old times in the wars, in order to check the advance of cavalry. Another Star-Thistle, which is brought from the fields of the Levant to adorn our gardens, has still more singular spines about its purple blossoms, and it has

received the specific name of Crocodylium, because these are thought to resemble the jaws of a crocodile; while others of the species bear in their names some reference to various ancient weapons of warfare.

Our Star-Thistle, though a common flower in many places, is not so in England. It blooms during the months of July and August, on gravelly, sandy, and chalky soils, and may often be found among the wild flowers of the cliff, by the sea, or on the green patches which lie on the upper part of the beach. It is very rare in Scotland, and more frequent in the middle and southern counties of England than elsewhere.

The Yellow Star-Thistle, called also St. Barnaby's Thistle, (*Centaurea solstitialis,*) is a more rare kind, but grows on some fields and waste places in the east and south of England; and the Jersey Star-Thistle (*Centaurea Isnardi*) is an ornamental flower on the pastures of the island whence it takes its name.

CORN BLUE-BOTTLE.

CORN BLUE-BOTTLE.—*Centaurea Cyanus.*

Class SYNGENESIA. *Order* FRUSTRANEA. *Nat. Ord.* COMPOSITÆ. COMPOUND FLOWERS.

THIS flower, the Bluet of the French, and the Korn-blume of the Germans, is of so brilliant a blue that it is commonly admitted to a place among the border flowers of the garden. It grows wild in corn-fields throughout Europe, and we often see its beautiful tint contrasting well with the rich brown hue of the ears of corn, during the months of July and August. It is sometimes three feet high, and both stems and leaves, especially the under surface of the latter, are covered with a thick cottony down. The expressed juice of the plant furnishes a beautiful blue dye; but the tint fades so rapidly, that it is not used by the dyers.

Every one who is accustomed to ramble among the fields and lanes of our land, has seen a flower shaped like that figured in our engraving, but of a brilliant purple hue. It blossoms during August and September, but is so hardy, that it will sometimes, in a mild

season, linger on until November. It is a plant of the same genus as the Blue-Bottle, and is called the Brown Radiant Knapweed (*Centaurea jacea*). The plants of the whole genus were formerly in high repute for their supposed healing properties; and ancient tradition records that some one of these flowers was that with which the Centaur Chiron cured the wound in his foot, which had been inflicted by the arrow of Hercules. Hence the name Centaurea was applied to the whole genus.

One species, which like our Star-Thistle has spines on its flower-cup, was called the Blessed Thistle, (*Centaurea benedicta*,) from the healing properties which it was believed to possess. It was said to cure not only fevers and wounds of all kinds, but to be of great efficacy in that direst of diseases, the plague. In modern times, however, not one of the species is found to possess any medicinal virtue.

HAREBELL.

HAREBELL.—*Campanula rotundifolia.*

Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* CAMPANULACEÆ. BELL-FLOWER TRIBE.

THERE are few of our wild flowers more admired, or which have won more praises from the poets, than the Harebell. Bowing down to every wind which sweeps across the open and bleak places which are its native haunts, and having its azure cup sprinkled with the morning dews, as with pearls, it surpasses most flowers in gracefulness of form, and many in beauty of colour. It is, too, as common as it is lovely, for every heath and sunny bank and hilly pasture has its little knots of harebells, and it often waves on the very summit of some tall cliff or old wall, being ever most plentiful

> "On the swelling downs, where sweet air stirs
> The blue-bells lightly, and where prickly furze
> Buds lavish gold."

The leaves on its stem are slender, like those of grass, but at its base there are a number of roundish notched leaves, which serve to dis-

tinguish this species from one somewhat similar. When the plant is young, the leaves are easily detected; but as it increases in size, they are often quite dried up.

We have no less than ten wild species of bell-flowers, some of them having stout stems and large leaves, from among which hang conspicuous purple bells. In the summer months many species are very common on our hedge-banks and in woods. There is one wild kind, which is very small and delicate, and of extreme beauty. It is the Ivy-leaved Bell-flower, (*Campanula hederacea*,) with light-blue bells, which have scarcely any tendency to droop. This most graceful little plant grows in tufts, and has a great number of ivy-shaped leaves; its stems are weak, and so slender, that they are seldom much larger than a pack-thread. It grows in moist shady woods, and is plentiful in Devonshire, Cornwall, and Sussex, as well as in some other parts of our island, though in most districts it is a rare flower.

CORN FEVERFEW.

CORN FEVERFEW.—*Pyrethrum inodorum.*

Class SYNGENESIA. *Order* SUPERFLUA. *Nat. Ord.* COMPOSITÆ. COMPOUND FLOWERS.

THERE are so many flowers scattered by waysides, fields, and meadows, which are similar in their general appearance to that represented by our engraving, that they often perplex the young botanist. Some species of chamomile resemble it; the Tall Ox-eye Daisy, though having very different leaves, has a blossom like it, and the other two wild species of Feverfew are very similar. This flower has little claim to its familiar name of Mayweed, for it blossoms from August until October, on fields and waste places, and is among the few flowers which we may perchance find even in the very depth of winter. Its stem is about a foot high, and it has a slightly aromatic odour.

The other two kinds of Feverfew are also frequent flowers. The Common Feverfew (*Pyrethrum Parthenium*) may be known by its very strong and unpleasant odour, and it has a very bitter flavour. It is used in medicine, and lotions for external applications are also made from it. It is one of the plants which among country people are held in high estima-

tion as a remedy for fever; and, doubtless, when rightly applied, it is a valuable one, for medical practitioners acknowledge its tonic properties, and, like those who gave it its old English name, consider it of efficacy in reducing fever.

The white-rayed flowers of the Sea-side Feverfew (*Pyrethrum maritimum*) are very often to be seen growing not only on the green patches which lie among the cliffs, but also on the beach, beyond the reach of the waves. They appear in July, and though smaller in size than those of the Corn Feverfew, are so like them, that many botanists think it to be the same plant, and that its dwarf condition is to be ascribed to its situation; as the bleak winds and saline atmosphere of the sea-coast are well known to be unfavourable to the growth of almost all plants, save those which will grow there only.

Many species of Feverfew are reared in gardens, and some of the double-flowered kinds are very pretty. They have almost all, like our wild flower, white rays around a yellow disk, but the Siberian Feverfew, and some others, are bright yellow both in the ray and disk.

WOOD SORREL.

WOOD-SORREL.—*Oxalis acetosella.*

Class DECANDRIA. *Order* PENTAGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* OXALIDEÆ. WOOD-SORREL TRIBE.

No native plant has leaves so acid as those of the Wood-sorrel. The acid resembles that of the lemon; hence the leaf is very pleasant in flavour, and is not only relished by the rambler in the woods, but is used in salads. A useful medicinal drink is also made of its juice; and a poisonous salt procured from it removes stains from linen. The plant blooms in May, and is abundant in woods and shady places. When growing on high mountains it continues in flower until August. Curtis has observed a very singular circumstance respecting its seed-vessel. He says that it continues, during the greater part of the summer, to produce seed-vessels and seeds, without any appearance of expanded blossoms, which are observable at one season only of the year. When the blossom is over, the flower-stalk bends down, but becomes upright again as soon as the seed has ripened. When the seed-vessel is touched, the seeds are thrown to a great distance, not,

as in some plants, by the elasticity of the seed-vessel, but by the bursting of the covering which invests the seed itself. The roots are like coral beads strung together, and the leaves are more sensitive than those of any other of our wild flowers, closing during darkness or at the approach of a storm. They are said, by some, to show some irritability on being struck, but this statement the author has not found to be true.

The triple leaf had, in former days, some superstitious veneration attached to it, and the plant was consequently called Allelujah. Some of the early religious painters of Italy introduced it into their pictures; and the author of the work called "Modern Painters," refers to this use. He remarks: "Fra Angelico's use of the Oxalis acetosella is as faithful in representation as touching in feeling. The triple leaf of this plant and white flower, stained purple, probably gave it strange typical interest among the Christian painters." Some persons believe that this was the Shamrock, the plant chosen by St. Patrick to illustrate the doctrine of the Trinity.

COMMON FLEA-BANE.

COMMON FLEA-BANE.—*Pulicaria dysenterica.*

Class SYNGENESIA. *Order* SUPERFLUA. *Nat. Ord.* COMPOSITÆ. COMPOUND FLOWERS.

WHENEVER we see this yellow star with its pale green woolly leaves springing up in profusion among the grass or green herbage, we may feel assured that water is near. The stream may be wandering on silently, or the stagnant pool be hidden among the trees and bushes; but this plant is the undoubted indication of moist land, and by its side we shall find the blue blossoms of the Brooklime, or the waving flower of the Yellow Iris, or the beautifully fringed bloom of the Buck-bean, or some of the many flowers peculiar to the well-watered soil. This plant received its name from the belief that its smoke, while burning, drives away fleas, gnats, and other insects. Its juice, too, is considered by country people to possess some medicinal virtues. It is saltish, and somewhat pungent in flavour, and a decoction made from the plant is acid in the throat, and astringent in its property, turning green with vitriol of iron; while the infusion becomes black, by an admixture with this vitriol.

The common Flea-bane flowers in August, and is usually about a foot, or a foot and a half in height; but in the month of September, another species, very similar to this in appearance, is found in moist sandy places in England, especially where water has stood. It is the Small Flea-bane (*Pulicaria vulgaris*), and has narrower leaves than those represented in the engraving. This latter kind is unknown in Scotland or Ireland, and the Common Flea-bane, frequent as it is on the English landscape, is a rare flower in Scotland. Both kinds are believed to be noxious to insects, and they were formerly very generally burnt, or hung up in country cottages to exterminate these intruders. The French peasantry commonly use for a similar purpose another plant called Herbe aux puces, which we call Ploughman's Spikenard (*Conyza squarrosa*), and which is frequent in autumn on our chalky or clayey soils; while a plant called by us the Canada Flea-bane (*Erigeron Canadense*) has, both on the Continent and in England, a repute for the same services.

WOODY NIGHTSHADE, OR BITTER SWEET.—*Solanum dulcamara.*

Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* SOLANEÆ. NIGHTSHADE TRIBE.

THE lurid purple blossoms of this plant would lead the botanist to infer, at the first glance, that poison lurked there. The scarlet berries which in the latter part of summer deck the branches, and which in winter hang in glistening clusters among withered boughs and leaves, are well known to be noxious, and children are tempted by their beauty to taste these fruits. In cases where this occurs, warm water should be given in great quantities, until medical aid arrives. The roots of this Nightshade are in scent like the potato, and its familiar name originates in their flavour, which is at first bitter in the mouth, and afterwards sweet. The similarity in their blossoms also points out the affinity between this plant and the potato. This valuable root belongs to another species of the same genus (*Solanum tuberosum*), and its connexion with the poisonous family of the Nightshades made Linnæus long mistrustful of its wholesome qualities. The berries, the leaves, and even the uncooked tubers of the potato, possess indeed, in a milder

form, the narcotic properties of this tribe; but the heat which prepares the vegetable for our table, wholly removes any unwholesome principle.

The twigs and stalks of the Bitter Sweet are used by the Swedish peasants to bind around their wooden cans, and the inhabitants of Westphalia make a decoction of the whole plant, and use it as a remedy for rheumatism. This species is common throughout Europe, and also in many parts of Asia and North America. Most cattle refuse its foliage, but the goat relishes it.

There is a kind of Nightshade very frequent as a weed in our gardens, on sea-beaches, and in other waste places, with white flowers shaped like those of the engraving, which are succeeded by black berries. This is the garden Nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*). The berries are, by us, considered a virulent poison; but Backhouse mentions that the people of Norfolk Island eat them, though he observes that the climate probably alters their properties. The Deadly Nightshade is a differently formed flower from either of these, and is a purple bell. It is the Atropa Belladonna of the botanist. It bears black berries.

COLT'S-FOOT

COLT'S-FOOT.—*Tussilago Farfara.*

Class SYNGENESIA. *Order* SUPERFLUA. *Nat. Ord.* COMPOSITÆ. COMPOUND FLOWERS.

THOSE who are in the habit of observing the plants of our moist and clayey soils, will recognise this as very abundant there. Next to the tassel-like blossoms of the hazel and the silver ray of the daisy, this is the earliest of the spring flowers, often blooming in March, before the Violet has yet put forth a bud. As the yellow blossom appears long before the foliage, the plant is less ornamental than it would be, were it accompanied by the large and handsome leaves which spread, all the summer-time, over many a bank by our wayside walk. The leaves have long been used medicinally as an infusion for cough, and the practice of smoking them like tobacco is still very general in villages. This custom is of very ancient date, for Pliny directs that the foliage should be burned, and that the smoke arising from it should be drawn into the mouth through a reed and swallowed. The scientific name of the genus is derived from *tussis*, a cough.

The under surface of the leaf of the Colt's-foot is covered with a thick cottony down,

which was often used for tinder, when that substance was more in request than it now is. The Tartars are much infested by gnats, and they frequently burn touchwood in order to suffocate these insects, and use the roots of this Colt's-foot for the purpose. It grows on barren steppes and plains where few other plants are found, and it blooms from the beginning of March till the end of April, often giving quite a yellow hue to the lands where it abounds.

Curtis notices one peculiarity in this blossom. As soon as the flower is out of bloom, and the seeds, with the pappus or down as yet moist, are enclosed in the flower-cup, the heads hang down; but as the moisture of the seeds and down evaporates in withering, they become lighter, and the ball of feathery seeds expands, and assumes the appearance of a Dandelion puff.

The creeping character of the roots, the great abundance of the seeds, and the facility with which they are dispersed, render this plant a very troublesome weed on some cultivated lands.

VIPER'S BUGLOSS.

VIPER'S BUGLOSS.—*Echium vulgare.*

Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* BORAGINEÆ. BORAGE TRIBE.

AMONG the flowers which beautify our waste places, this plant is not only one of the most striking from its height, but one of the most beautiful in shape and hue. We never find it on the rich grassy meadow-land, or among the lovely wild flowers which border our streams, or rise beneath the shadow of the trees. But on the heap of chalk, or sand, or gravel, accumulated by the way-side; on the sandy soil of the neglected field; on the beach, where, among the stones, a little earth can find room to gather; on the old wall, or the majestic cliff, there it raises its rich spire of blossoms. Its proper season of flowering is in June and July; but the author has often gathered it even in December, not rising to its usual height, but with the rich purple of its blossoms, and the bright red tint of their long stamens, as beautiful as ever. The plant is usually about two feet high; but in places where it flourishes best, as in the sandy fields of Cambridgeshire, and on the chalky cliffs of Dover, it is sometimes more than three feet in

height, and the blossoms extend half way down the stem. The colour of the fully-expanded flowers is of a deep blue, but the young buds are of a full rose colour, and occasionally the blossoms are found, as at Cobham, in Kent, of a pure white. The whole plant is very rough to the touch. Its scientific and English names are significant of the long-cherished notion, that it was an effectual remedy for the bite of a viper,—a notion derived from its spotted stem, and its seed, which somewhat resembles the head of that animal, and was thus deemed to have some mysterious connexion with it.

Though our Viper's Bugloss is an herbaceous plant, many of the species are much larger, and several found at the Cape of Good Hope are shrubs. The various kinds grow abundantly throughout Europe, from the cold Siberia, where they enliven the dreary lands, to the warm latitudes of the south, where flowers are bright and numerous. They are, however, less frequent in the equinoctial parts of the world. Some very handsome species are commonly cultivated in our gardens.

GROUND IVY.—*Glechoma hederacea.*

Class Didynamia. *Order* Gymnospermia. *Nat. Ord.* Labiatæ. Labiate Tribe.

This plant has a strong aromatic odour, especially if the leaves are bruised, and both its flower and foliage are very pretty. Bishop Mant well describes the former:—

> "And there upon the sod below,
> Ground Ivy's purple blossoms show,
> Like helmet of Crusader knight,
> Its anther's cross-like form of white."

These flowers grow in threes, between the stalk and leaf; they are sometimes of a pale lilac, and, though more rarely, quite white. They appear in April and May; but long before the spring has put forth a single blossom, the leaves may be found clustering on the hedge-bank, though the odour which characterises them at a later season, is then scarcely perceptible. Ornamental as this plant is, yet it is very injurious to pasture lands, its long trailing stems occupying much room, and gradually exterminating the sweet grasses and

other plants which form the food of cattle. Few animals will touch the Ground Ivy unless compelled by hunger to do so, and it is even said to be injurious to horses. The leaves are much used in villages to make an infusion for coughs, and the plant was formerly called Ale-hoof and Tun-hoof, because their bitter properties rendered them of use in the beer made in the old English households, before hops had become the common growth of our country. Even in recent times a quantity of this plant has been thrown into a vat of ale in order to clarify it, and the ale thus prepared has been taken as a remedy for some maladies of the skin.

We may often see, during autumn, a number of small hairy tumours on the leaves of the Ground Ivy, which are occasioned by the puncture of the insect called Cynips Glechomæ. These galls are sometimes eaten by the peasantry of France; but Reaumur, who tasted them, remarks that it is doubtful if they will rank with good fruits. They have, as might be expected, a strong flavour of the plant on which they are formed.

LESSER CELANDINE, OR PILEWORT.

Ranunculus ficaria.

Class POLYANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* RANUNCULACEÆ. CROWFOOT TRIBE.

WHO that loves summer sunshine and opening flowers does not welcome this "herald of the gentlest gales?" Little children run into the meadows to find the daisy, and before the buttercup has yet glittered among the grass they may see

> "The vernal Pilewort's globe unfold
> Its star-like disk of burnish'd gold;
> Starlike in seeming form, from far
> It shines too like a glistening star."

With the exception of the dandelion it is the gayest and brightest of our early flowers, and when the lark and the thrush are welcoming the spring, and summer birds have come across the ocean to sing their songs in our woodland trees, then every hedge-bank is studded with the Celandine as with golden stars, and from March till the end of May it gleams among the grass of the meadow. Flora's garland is then

"Wreath'd of the sunny Celandine—the brief
Courageous Wind-flower, loveliest of the frail—
The Hazel's crimson star—the Woodbine's leaf—
The Daisy with its half-closed eye of grief;
Prophets of fragrance, beauty, joy and song."

This flower is a true lover of the sunshine, opening only on bright days. A large number of the blossoms grow from one root, and are surrounded by shining green leaves spotted with pale green. It is not a useful plant, and though the lover of wild flowers greets it with pleasure, yet the farmer would gladly eradicate it from his pasture lands. It belongs to the Ranunculus tribe, like the Buttercups, and like them possesses very acrimonious properties. Its flowers are left untouched by the cattle, and its roots are very bitter and acrid, yet they are used for medicinal purposes. It is also said to injure the plants growing around it.

The Celandine closes its flowers from five o'clock in the evening till nine on the following morning. Professor Martyn observes, that the young leaves may be eaten in spring, but they are rather acrid.

YELLOW TOADFLAX.—*Linaria vulgaris.*

Class DIDYNAMIA. *Order* ANGIOSPERMIA. *Nat. Ord.* SCROPHULARINEÆ.—FIGWORT TRIBE.

THIS showy flower is a very frequent one on the rural landscape. The large sulphur-coloured blossoms, raised on a stem one or two feet in height, are very conspicuous in hedges and on the borders of corn-fields. On corn lands, as well as on pastures where the soil is sandy, it is often very troublesome to the cultivator, its two-celled capsules being very numerous, and containing many seeds, which, during the later months of autumn, are scattered far and wide by wind and rain. Though paler in hue than many of the golden flowers of August and September, yet it is bright enough to give a yellow tint to the field at that season.

The blossoms are shaped like those of the snapdragon of our old walls and ruins, except that they are spurred at the base. Country people call the Toadflax Butter and Eggs, because of the deep yellow and pale sulphur colour with which they are tinged.

The foliage of this plant has upon it that sea-green bloom which the botanist calls the glaucous tint, and, like some others of the genus, it has a resemblance to the leaves of the Flax; hence the name from *Linum*, Flax. Both this and the wild species called the sharp-pointed Fluellin, or Toadflax, which is frequent on gravelly or chalky corn-fields in England, were formerly used as a lotion to improve the beauty of the skin, and a decoction is still made for this purpose from the blossoms, and has been recommended by some good authorities. The juice mingled with milk is used to poison flies, but probably, like many other liquids used with this design, it attracts to the spot a much larger number than it destroys.

"And thou, Linaria, mingle in my wreath
Thy golden dragons, for though perfumed breath
Escapes not from thy yellow petals, yet
Glad thoughts bringest thou of hedge-row foliage, wet
With tears and dew; lark warblings, and green ferns
O'erspanning crystal runnels, where there turns
And twines the glossy Ivy."

RED BERRIED

RED-BERRIED BRYONY.—*Bryonia dioica.*

Class Monœcia. *Order* Pentandria. *Nat. Ord.* Cucurbitaceæ. Gourd Tribe.

In the latter part of April, when young leaves and shoots seem daily to increase in number and luxuriance, many of them are almost as beautiful as flowers. But no gradually expanding shoot is at this season more elegant than that of the White Bryony. In later months, the foliage is thickly beset, both on the upper and under surfaces, with stiff hairs almost like prickles; but in the spring these form merely a beautiful down on the tender green of the stem and leaves, and this covering is so full, and the hairs so clear and glittering, that the young plant looks as if covered with the bright hoar frost of winter. By the middle of May, however, the graceful shoot has become a long trailing stem, and, reaching a distance of many feet among the hedges and thickets, its deep green, vine-like leaves, curling tendrils, and greenish-white flowers, render it one of our most beautiful wild climbers. Its botanical name is taken from a Greek word

significant of its rapid growth; and we have scarcely any wild plant which increases so fast as this. In the autumn its branches are covered with clusters of deep red berries.

The root of this is very large, white, and branched. Gerarde says of one in his time, "The queen's chief chirurgeon, Master William Goodorous, showed me a root hereof, that waied halfe an hundred waighte, and of the bignesse of a childe of a yeere old." It is very acrid in its properties, and is often scraped and applied to the limb affected with rheumatism, when it causes a stinging sensation in the skin, similar to that produced by the nettle. The whole plant abounds with an acrid fœtid juice. Frequent as it is in England, it is not a common plant in Scotland; and it seems doubtful whether it is indigenous to that country. It is said that the goat is the only quadruped which will eat this plant. It is the only British plant belonging to the Gourd Tribe.

CORN MARIGOLD.—*Chrysanthemum segetum.*

Class SYNGENESIA. *Order* SUPERFLUA. *Nat. Ord.* COMPOSITÆ. COMPOUND FLOWERS.

THE bright Corn Marigold is one of the largest and gayest of the starry golden blossoms which are so numerous during July and August. It is often called Yellow Ox-eye, Golden Corn-flower, and Yellow Corn, and is the Gold or Goules of the early English poets. It is about a foot high, and is frequent enough in the corn-fields of our native land to prove, in some districts, a very troublesome weed to the agriculturist, sometimes almost exterminating the whole crop, on which much labour and cost have been bestowed. In many countries of Europe, as in France and Germany, it is, however, far more abundant than in ours. It is a very handsome plant, and would doubtless have become a favourite garden-flower, but that cultivation never renders it double.

We have but one other wild species of the Chrysanthemum genus, and that is the common flower of almost every dry pasture, the Ox-eye

daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*). This is also called, by country people, Moonwort, Bull-daisy, and a variety of familiar names. It has white rays around a yellow disk, and, growing often to the height of a foot and a half, it gives quite a white tint to the meadows during June and July.

The name of the genus is derived from two Greek words, signifying gold and flower; and the Germans term these plants *Gold-blume*, while the French call them *Chrysanthème*, and the Italians *Crisantero*. The species so ornamental to our gardens in autumn is the Chinese Chrysanthemum. These plants are, in the esteem of the Chinese, second only to their dwarf trees. "So high," says Fortune, "do they stand in favour with the Chinese gardener, that he will cultivate them extensively, even against the wishes of his employer. I was told that the late Mr. Beale used to say, that he grew Chrysanthemums in his garden for no other purpose than to please his gardener, not having any taste for them himself."

COMMON FUMITORY.

COMMON FUMITORY.—*Fumaria officinalis.*

Class DIADELPHIA. *Order* HEXANDRIA. *Nat. Ord.* FUMARIACEÆ. FUMITORY TRIBE.

THIS plant is the Fume-de-terre of the French rustic, and the Earth-smoke of the people of our northern counties. Both its English name, and the Latin, derived from *fumus*, smoke, refer to the same idea. The name is said to be taken from the odour of the plant; yet this, though somewhat unpleasant, is not very similar to that of smoke. The author has known Kentish children call the plant wax dolls, and the rose-coloured flowers, with their little dark purple heads, are not unlike the small waxen toys made to please the taste of childhood. The plant was formerly a valuable medicine in cutaneous disorders; its young tops are still prepared as a tonic; and Thunberg says, that the people of Japan make much medicinal use of it. Clare, one of our most original poets, and one well acquainted with rural practices, alludes to its use as a cosmetic, when describing the flowers which the weeders eradicate.

"And Fumitory too, a name
Which Superstition holds to Fame,

Whose red and purple mottled flowers
Are cropp'd by maids in weeding hours,
To boil in water, milk, and whey,
For washes on a holiday,
To make their beauty fair and sleek,
And scare the tan from summer's cheek;
And oft the dame will feel inclined,
As childhood's memory comes to mind,
To turn her hook away, and spare
The blooms it loved to gather there."

This plant is common by road-sides and in cultivated fields and gardens, and is sometimes so abundant in the corn-field of spring, as to give a red hue to the land. It flowers during the whole summer.

We have, besides, two wild species of the genus, the Ramping Fumitory (*Fumaria capreolata*), which blooms from May to August, and is frequent in gardens and corn-fields. It is much like the common species, but the flowers are larger and the stems generally more climbing. The small-flowered Fumitory (*Fumaria parviflora*) is a rare species, occasionally found in fields during August and September. The flowers are rose-coloured, and the leaves have, instead of the pale green tint of the other kinds, a bright verdant hue.

WHITE DEAD NETTLE.—*Lamium album.*

Class DIDYNAMIA. *Order* GYMNOSPERMIA. *Nat. Ord.* LABIATÆ. LABIATE TRIBE.

THE foliage of this plant bears a strong resemblance to that of the nettle. For this reason, and because it is destitute of stinging properties, it is named Dead or Blind Nettle. There are four other species, but these are not much like nettles. The White Dead Nettle is among the earliest of spring flowers, and may be gathered at almost any time during the summer, though most abundant in June and July. The number of its flowers varies from ten to twenty in a whorl; and it abounds on field borders, hedges and waste places, its blossoms being occasionally tinged with pink. At the base of the flower lies a store of honey for bee, or butterfly, or other insect. The odour of this plant, as well as of the other species, is rather unpleasant. Bishop Mant has described them :—

> "And there, with whorls encircling graced,
> Of white, and purple-tinted red,
> The harmless Nettle's helmed head;
> Less apt with fragrance to delight
> The smell, than please the curious sight."

The white species is the *Ortie blanche* of the French, and the *Ortica morta* of the Italians. It is refused by cattle, but in Sweden both this and the Red Dead Nettle are boiled for the table.

The other species are all of a reddish purple hue. One kind, the Red Dead Nettle, (*Lamium purpureum*,) is very often in flower as early as February, and is always plentiful in March. It must be well known to every person who notices wild flowers, for there is not a hedge or field where it does not grow. The blossoms are in shape like those of the engraving, but much smaller. A similar, but taller species, grows also in cultivated lands, in May and June, called the Cut-leaved Dead Nettle (*Lamium incisum*); and the Henbit Nettle (*Lamium amplexicaule*), with flowers of a much brighter red, is common in March and April in sandy fields and gardens. The only remaining species, the Spotted Dead Nettle, (*Lamium maculatum*,) is a rare flower.

COMMON AGRIMONY.—*Agrimonia eupatoria.*

Class DODECANDRIA. *Order* DIGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* ROSACEÆ. ROSE TRIBE.

THERE are few of our wild plants which are in more esteem with the village herbalist than the Agrimony. Every gatherer of "simples" knows it well, and the author has often seen the dried bundles of the plant hung up not only by the cottage fireplace, but in shops, in several of the towns of France, where it is exposed for sale. It is still retained in the London Materia Medica; but though once esteemed an important medicine, it is seldom or never prescribed by our modern physicians. The leaves are slightly bitter and aromatic, and the flowers have, while growing, an odour commonly said to resemble that of the apricot, but which might rather be described as like that of the lemon. They are of a yellow colour, growing in a long spike, about a third part down the stem, which is usually one or two feet high. The leaflets are deeply notched at the edges, and have intermediate small ones, cleft into three, four, or five segments. The plant imparts a greenish yellow colour to water, and a deep green tint

to spirituous liquors. It has also been used for dressing leather, and when just coming into flower, it will dye wool of a fine nankeen hue, but if gathered in the month of September, it yields a deeper yellow. Most cattle refuse it, but the sheep and goat will eat its foliage. It grows on the borders of fields, on waste places, and road-sides, flowering during June and July.

The Common Agrimony is our only British species, but we have a few kinds in the garden, which have been introduced from other countries. The tall Hemp Agrimony, which is so conspicuous a plant on moist lands, with large clusters of flesh-coloured flowers, belongs to another family of plants. The name of this genus is a corruption of *Argemone*, which was given by the Greeks to a plant supposed to be efficacious in curing cataract in the eye, which they termed *Argema*.

COMMON YARROW, OR MILFOIL.

COMMON YARROW, OR MILFOIL.

Achillæa millefolium.

Class SYNGENESIA. *Order* SUPERFLUA. *Nat. Ord.* COMPOSITÆ. COMPOUND FLOWERS.

ALL the summer long this plant is to be found by every wayside, and on almost every pasture of our land, with its clusters of white or pinkish flowers, and its pretty leaf cut into many segments. Its foliage is slightly pungent, and hence its familiar name of Old Man's Pepper. The Icelandic appellation of this plant, *Vall humall*, Field hop, seems to imply that it has been used instead of hops in that island, as it still is in some parts of Sweden. In these days, however, the Icelanders only use it as the Highlanders do, for an ingredient in an ointment which they apply to woumds; and its old English name of Nose-bleed marks its ancient use in our country as a vulnerary. Professor Burnett observes, that the good women of the Orkney Islands hold Milfoil tea in high repute for its power of dispelling melancholy. It is a favourite flower in the gardens of the Isle of Madeira, while the hills and vales of that beautiful land are bright with flowers which our gardeners prize highly.

We have three wild species of Yarrow. The Woolly Milfoil (*Achillæa tomentosa*) is a small plant, with bright yellow flowers; it grows on dry hilly pastures in Scotland. This, however, is not a common plant; but the Sneezewort Yarrow (*Achillæa Ptarmica*) is very frequent on moist meadows and pastures, especially in mountain districts. It flowers during July and August, and is about two or three feet high, with much larger blossoms than those of the species figured here. They have a white disk as well as white rays. This plant when dried and pulverised excites sneezing. The Laplanders call it Goose-tongue, and its young spring shoots are sometimes eaten as salad. The mountaineers of the Alps make vinegar of a dwarf species of Yarrow, common there, and its flavour is so good, that it is said to be equal to that made of the Tarragon, which is a species of wormwood.

BEE ORCHIS.—*Ophrys apifera.*

Class Gynandria. *Order* Monandria. *Nat. Ord.* Orchideæ. Orchis Tribe.

This flower belongs to a tribe in which blossoms are produced that seem rather to bear a resemblance to the animal, than to the vegetable world. Among our native orchidaceous plants, we have the Fly, the Bee, the Lizard, the Man, the Butterfly, and the Spider orchises, but with the exception of the first two, there does not exist in these plants a very great similarity to the objects whence they are named. But it is not so in tropical lands, where orchidaceous plants wave among the highest boughs of the lofty trees, and as the wind sweeps in among them, display the glittering colours of the most beautiful butterflies, which seem perched upon the bough. There too the Frog Oncidium reminds the traveller of the merry creature which leaps among the grass of the English meadows; or another beautiful flower recals the swan of the streams; while one orchis so well represents a descending dove,

that the people of Panama call it Spirito Santo, or Holy Ghost plant.

Our Bee Orchis blossoms in July. It is about a foot high, and has large and rather distant flowers. Its brown velvety lip, variegated with yellow, is much like the body of a large bee; and the purplish petals look like the expanded wings of the insect, which had just settled on the flower-stem. It is the handsomest of our native orchis plants, and grows on chalky soils in many parts of England, but will not long survive transplanting to a garden. Langhorne has some very descriptive lines on this flower.

"See on the floweret's velvet breast,
How close the busy vagrant lies!
His thin-wrought plume, his downy breast,
The ambrosial gold that swells his thighs.

"Perhaps his fragrant load may bind
His limbs;—we'll set the captive free.
I sought the living Bee to find,
And found the picture of a Bee."

COMMON LING, OR HEATH.

COMMON LING; OR, HEATH.

Calluna vulgaris.

Class OCTANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* ERICEÆ. HEATH TRIBE.

THE name of this genus is taken from a Greek word signifying to cleanse, on account of the common use of its twigs in making brooms.

No one who has looked upon heath lands during summer, will deny that they are indeed rendered attractive by this plant. The gathered flowers will long retain their brightness, and when placed in the herbarium, look, after a lapse of years, almost as fresh and gay as when blooming among the Furze and Broom of the wide tract whence they were taken. Clare alludes to the permanent beauty both of flower and foliage.

"How oft, though grass and moss are seen
Tann'd bright for want of flowers,
Still keeps the Ling its darksome green,
Thick set with little flowers."

There is but one species, which is to be found, from June to August, in flower on almost every heath, forming a low tufted shrub,

with small leaves close to the stems and branches. Many of the feathered tribe, particularly of the Grouse kind, find shelter among its boughs, and food in its seeds; and intended as it is to afford a large supply to our wild birds, the seed-vessel is so formed and protected that the seed lasts during a whole year. Many insects are nourished by it, and its foliage supports the caterpillar of the Egger moth (*Phalæna quercus*), and of several other beautiful winged creatures. This plant abounds on barren wastes in every part of Europe, especially in the northern countries. The French call it *La Bruyère;* and in the bleak and barren Highlands of Scotland, it is applied to a variety of economical purposes. It serves the cottager for a thatch to his roof, or it is burned for the winter fuel. The wall which encloses the humble farm buildings, is often made of alternate layers of heath and of a kind of cement formed of black earth and straw. Sheep and goats will sometimes eat the young and tender shoots, but cattle in general are not fond of this shrub.

DWARF RED RATTLE.—*Pedicularis sylvatica.*

Class DIDYNAMIA. *Order* ANGIOSPERMIA. *Nat. Ord.* SCROPHULARINEÆ.—FIGWORT TRIBE.

THIS flower is called also by the unpleasing name of Lousewort, and both that and its scientific appellation are significant of its supposed influence in causing disease to the animals which feed upon it. But the plant grows most abundantly on moist heaths, or on wet hilly grounds, and such pastures are not favourable to the health of cattle. Just as the wild thyme has an old repute for its beneficial effects on the flock, because the dry hilly plain which is fragrant with its flowers is a spot which suits them well; so the ills of the moist soil are attributed entirely to the plants which grow upon it. This flower is found sometimes on heaths, and its large rose-coloured blooms and prettily shaped foliage, render it very ornamental to such places during the month of July. It is found almost throughout Europe, and is as plentiful on the moist lands of Siberia, as on those of our own country. The expressed juice of the herb was formerly used medicinally.

We have another wild species, the Tall Red Rattle, or Marsh Lousewort, (*Pedicularis palustris*,) which blooms during June, on wet pastures and marshy grounds. It has a solitary erect stem, about a foot high; the flower is large, and of a purplish-crimson, and is a handsomer species than the more common one. It is found most abundantly in the counties at the North of England, and is said to be disagreeable and injurious to cattle.

To this genus belongs that singular and rare flower, which, though not common anywhere, yet graces with its golden blossoms many a plain of dreary Lapland. The Sceptred Lousewort (*Pedicularis Sceptrum Carolinum*) was so admired by Rudbeck, that he named it in honour of Charles XII. Dr. Edward Clarke, who saw it growing to the height of four or five feet from the pebbled beds of the water's edge, at Tornea, describes it in glowing language, and sent seeds to the Cambridge Botanical Gardens, but they produced no plants there. Even when found in Norway and Sweden growing wild, it is never so luxuriant as in its native Lapland.

FORGET-ME-NOT.

FORGET-ME-NOT.—*Myosotis palustris.*

Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* BORAGINEÆ. BORAGE TRIBE.

THE various traditions which gave rise to the popular name of this bright flower throughout Europe, are told by poets and historians. Agnes Strickland says, that Henry of Lancaster, when in exile, gave it to the Duchess of Bretagne, and by placing it on his collar of S. S. with the initial letter of his *mot* or watchword, "Souveigne vous de moy," rendered it the symbol of remembrance. Bishop Mant gives us the traditionary creed more generally received, though certainly less entitled to belief. A lady and a knight were sitting by the river side, when the former wished for the bright blue blossoms to braid among her hair. The knight dashed into the water to gratify her wishes, and gathered the flowers, but was overborne by the strength of the current.

"Then the blossoms blue to the bank he threw
Ere he sank in the eddying tide;
And 'Lady, I'm gone, thine own knight true,
Forget me not,' he cried.

"The farewell pledge the lady caught,
And hence, as legends say,
The flower is a sign to awaken thought
Of friends who are far away."

Thus say the poets, but the philosophers believe them not; and so one of our great botanists suggests, that after all the flower owes its name to its beautiful blue petals and yellow eye, which once looked upon are not likely to be forgotten.

This plant is called also Great Scorpion grass, and Mouse ear, and is, during the summer months, very common in our humid meadows, bogs, banks of rivers, rivulets, and ditches. It grows in similar places throughout Europe, and also in many parts of Asia and North America. A variety has been found with white flowers.

There are eight native species of the genus, and all have blue blossoms. The little brilliant blue flower found in fields from June to August, and often called Forget-me-not, is the field Scorpion grass (*Myosotis arvensis*). It is very abundant on cultivated lands, on hedge banks, and in groves, &c. The name of the genus is derived from two Greek words, signifying mouse and ear, from the shape of the leaves.

COMMON BORAGE.

COMMON BORAGE.—*Borago officinalis.*

Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* BORAGINEÆ. BORAGE TRIBE.

THIS bright azure blossom rears itself from the heap of rubbish on the waste places of our land, but is not a very common plant there. It is far more often one of the ornaments of the cottage garden; and rightly is it planted, for it is one of the flowers in which bees especially delight, and they are said to derive more nourishment from it than from any flower which blows. The brilliant blue petals with their prominent stamens, open to the sun in June and July. The whole plant is covered with rough stiff hairs, and the young buds are enclosed in cups of a reddish tinge. The Borage has rather an unpleasant odour. The French call it *Borrago*, and both their name and ours are corruptions of the old word *Corago*, which was taken from *cor*, the heart, because of its cordial qualities. In days when old proverbs were in daily use, one of the common adages recorded the supposed virtues of this plant: "I Borage bring courage;"

and the old naturalists, from Pliny downwards, affirm very confidently that it is efficacious in dispelling sadness. Thus Burton says :—

> "Borage and Hellebore fill two scenes,
> Sovereign plants to purge the veins
> Of melancholy, and clear the heart
> Of those black fumes which make it smart."

The young leaves were either boiled, or used as salads for this purpose, though their flavour is anything but agreeable; and the flowers steeped in wine were found to be very invigorating. The tissues of the plant contain gum, and it may therefore be used as a demulcent. It also possesses nitrate of potash, and when burnt, will emit sparks with a slight explosive sound. It is thought to be a native of Aleppo, but it has become naturalized now in most European countries. The garden species are very easy of culture, and we have one kind from Persia, another from Numidia, and a third from Corsica. The Persian species has pink flowers, but the others have brilliant blue blossoms. Borage still forms an ingredient in the drink called "cool tankard."

MILKWORT.

MILKWORT.—*Polygala vulgaris.*

Class DIADELPHIA. *Order* OCTANDRIA. *Nat. Ord.* POLYGALEÆ. MILKWORT TRIBE.

THIS pretty plant is one which is very frequent on dry hilly pastures, where, in May, June, and July, its crested blossoms form patches of a deep blue, purple, pink or white tint. Some of its old names record usages of days long past, for it is the Rogation flower of the older writers, and is still called Gang flower in the rural districts of the northern counties of England. In the early periods of our country's history, the Rogation week was called also Gang week, from the old Saxon verb *gang*, signifying to go, a word with which many an old Scottish ballad makes us familiar. It was an ancient custom in country parishes for the clergyman, accompanied by his churchwardens and parishioners, to walk around the boundaries of the parish at this season, when the children of the charity schools carried a long pole decked with a profusion of flowers, among which, as we must infer from its old names, our Milkwort was one especially in

favour. The practice continued in use even as late as the commencement of the last century, at Wolverhampton, in Staffordshire; and records of these Rogation processions occur as early as A.D. 550.

The Milkwort is also in some places called Hedge Hyssop, and has been thought to possess some of the valuable remedial virtues of the plant termed the American Rattlesnake root, which is a species of the same genus. Sir J. E. Smith was advised by a physician at Montpelier to take an infusion of the Milkwort for a cough, and did so with great success. Foreign writers celebrate the plant as a grateful and nutritious food for cattle. It is certainly very ornamental to the spots on which it grows, where it blooms beside the Eyebright, the Wild Thyme, the beautiful Rock Rose, and the other wild flowers of the chalky cliff or hill-side. We have some very pretty species of Polygala in our gardens, brought chiefly from North America and the Cape of Good Hope.

COMMON CENTAURY.

COMMON CENTAURY.—*Erythræa Centaurium.*

Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* GENTIANEÆ. GENTIAN TRIBE.

THOSE who have ever tasted the foliage of this plant, will not be surprised to find that it was formerly classed with the Gentians, and called the Gentian Centaury. The Gentians possess the most powerful bitter principle of any of our native plants, nor is the Centaury scarcely less characterised by its bitterness, and its flavour is more disagreeable than that of the Gentian. Baron Haller tells us that the ancients called our pretty red flower, the Gall of the earth. The name of the genus is taken from the Greek word Red, which is the colour of the flowers of most of the species. The common kind is very frequent on dry pastures, in woods, and on rocks or chalk cliffs, flowering during July and August, and growing to eight or ten inches, or sometimes a foot in height. The leaves around the root are much broader than those of the stem, and the clusters open only in fine weather, and before twelve o'clock, after which time they gradually

close; and one who was previously unacquainted with the plant, would suppose that it as yet had but its unexpanded buds. It is so difficult of cultivation, that it seems almost impossible to rear it in a garden, or it would make a pretty border flower. This is the case with all the species.

It is commonly said by botanists, that we have four wild species of Centaury; but they differ so little from each other, that some have thought they should all be included in one, and that the slight differences may all be accounted for by variety of soil and situation. In all are found the same rose-coloured clusters of flowers, and the same light green, bitter stems and leaves. The Dwarf Centaury (*Erythræa pulchella*) rarely exceeds six inches in height, and grows on sandy shores; and the Dwarf tufted Centaury (*Erythræa littoralis*) is found in similar places. The Broad-leaved tufted Centaury (*Erythræa latifolia*) is more unlike the common species than either of the others, having its cluster of blossoms in a dense tuft.

FLY ORCHIS.

FLY ORCHIS.—*Ophrys muscifera.*

Class GYNANDRIA. *Order* MONANDRIA. *Nat. Ord.* ORCHIDEÆ. ORCHIS TRIBE.

WE have five British species of the genus Ophrys. The petals of the Fly Orchis are very narrow, and of a purplish-brown hue, having a spot in the centre, of a bluish tinge. It is a slender plant, usually about a foot high, and it flowers rather earlier in the season than the Bee orchis. It is not, however, like that plant, most frequent on hilly places and chalky downs, for though sometimes found on the pasture of chalk or clay soil, yet it seems more luxuriant in our moist calcareous thickets than elsewhere. In many parts of Kent, Surrey, Suffolk, and Hampshire, it is very frequent, and no one who looked on it would fail to identify the species with its familiar name.

The Bee orchis has been already named. Then we have a Spider orchis (*Ophrys aranifera*), and a late Spider orchis (*Ophrys arachnites*), the former flowering on pasture lands of chalky or clayey soil, and in pits, during April and May. The shape of its lip is much

like the body of a spider, and it has pale lines marked on it, which would remind one of a Greek character. The later Spider orchis flowers about May or June, and is a rare plant: while still more rare is the Drone orchis (*Ophrys fucifera*), which has been found near Folkestone in Kent.

The genus Ophrys received its name from the Greek word for an eyebrow, which Pliny says these plants were used to blacken. Like most of the Orchis tribe, the roots contain a wholesome farinaceous substance, of which is made the Salep of commerce. The warm basin of salep is not now, as it was some years since, a favourite article of diet, and is taken by few save invalids. It was chiefly imported from Southern Europe, but may be made equally well from our native orchises. Salep, prepared from different species of orchis, is much used in Eastern countries, and in Turkey not a meal is taken without it.

FINE-LEAVED HEATH.

FINE-LEAVED HEATH.—*Erica cinerea.*

Class Octandria. *Order* Monogynia. *Nat. Ord.* Ericeæ. Heath Tribe.

There are five species of Heath, which, with the common Ling of our heathy and moory lands, are included in the general name of Heather. The species figured on our page is, with the exception of the Ling, the most common of them all, though the delicate rose-coloured flowers of the cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*) are, on many wide-spread lands, as abundant as this. The last-named flower is the badge of the Macdonalds, while the species here represented is that of the Clan Macalister. Then there is a heath which is rare, but which has been found on the boggy lands of Cunnemara in Ireland, covering a space of at least two acres of land, and has been called Mediterranean Heath. The two remaining native kinds are found in some places in Cornwall.

The Heaths, whether found on the sandy wilds of Africa, whence we have most of our hothouse species, or on the black hills of the "Land of brown heath," always indicate a barren soil. Linnæus observes, in his *Flora*

Lapponica, that in some of the districts through which he passed, scarcely any plant could be seen but heath, which covered the ground so that it could not be extirpated. He remarks, that the country people had an idea that there were two plants which would finally overspread and destroy the whole earth, these were Heath and Tobacco.

The Heather is valuable, not to the bee only, which gathers stores of honey from its bells, but to many a bright winged or darker tinted insect, which finds food and shelter among its flowers and foliage. No cattle seem fond of it, but the fibres of the stalks are twisted into ropes, cottages are thatched with its branches, and the people of Jura and Isla brew very good beer by mixing the young heath-tops with their malt. Large quantities are gathered by the peasants for their winter fuel, and this plant and the "Bonnie Broom" are often strewed for an humble couch. In Rum, Skye, and Long Island, leather is tanned with a preparation of its branches, and in most of the Western Isles it is used for dyeing yarn of a yellow colour.

BLACK BRYONY.

BLACK BRYONY.—*Tamus communis.*

Class Diœcia. *Order* Hexandria. *Nat. Ord.* Dioscoreaceæ. Yam Tribe.

During the months of May and June, the old trunks of many of our woodland trees are made green and beautiful by the long stems and glossy leaves of this graceful climber. Investing the trunks and boughs of the tree with a brighter mass of foliage than even the Ivy, and extending its long stems in a twining rather than a creeping habit, to the topmost twigs, or almost weighing down the more slender branches of the underwood, it is yet far less injurious to the plant within its grasp, for its green stems are but slight, and have not the strength and firmness of the Ivy-band. Yet this,

> "Now climbing high with random maze,
> O'er elm, and ash, and alder strays;
> And round each trunk a network weaves
> Fantastic."

The flowers are too small and not showy enough in colour to be particularly ornamental, but Nature does not offer to the wanderer in the woods a more graceful wreath than that of the Wild Bryony. During summer, the large green berries look like clusters of wild grapes;

and when autumn has matured them into redness, they are among the most beautiful of all our woodland berries, but are very poisonous in their nature.

The roots of this plant are large, and it is to their black colour that it owes its distinctive English name. The root is a black-coated tuber, which has so acrid a pulp that it is sometimes used as a stimulating plaister. The large roots themselves are white internally, and full of starch. This, however, is mixed with a bitter acrimonious substance, not only unpleasant in flavour, but doubtless unwholesome in its nature. Their bitterness and acridity may be destroyed by repeated washings, and by heat, and if the black tumours on them are previously removed, they may be safely eaten. The young spring shoots are so mild, as to possess, when dressed, a very agreeable flavour, and are said to form a good substitute for asparagus; though the experiment is a dangerous one. Many of the trees of Morocco are hung, like ours, with festoons of this plant, and the young shoots are commonly boiled by the Moors, and eaten with oil and salt.

BLUE SUCCORY.

BLUE SUCCORY.—*Cichorium Intybus.*

Class SYNGENESIA. *Order* ÆQUALIS. *Nat. Ord.* COMPOSITÆ. COMPOUND FLOWERS.

How brilliant is the blue tint of this handsome flower, which grows so plentifully on the borders of fields where the soil is of chalk or gravel! Yet attractive as it is to the lover of nature, the farmer denounces it as a noxious weed, for its large roots are not easily extirpated from his corn and other lands. A variety of this plant affords the Chicory root so extensively cultivated in France, and called *Chicorée à café*, and which is now so generally used in England with coffee as to be well known to us. The roots are taken up in the winter season, cut into squares, and roasted. The ancient Egyptians are known to have used Chicory in great quantities, and Pliny remarks on its importance in the diet of that people. Among the modern Egyptians this and similar plants compose half the food of the poorer classes. There seems no doubt that the specific terms of two kinds, Endivia and Intybus, are both derived from the Arabic name of Hendibeh. The Cichorium Endivia is the plant of our gardens, the blanched leaves of which serve

for a salad; and the French blanch the leaves of our common Blue Succory for a winter salad, and term it *Barbe du Capucine*. Horace celebrates some kind of Chicory as among the herbs of his frugal fare, but it is doubtful to which of the species he alludes. Our Blue Succory blossoms during July and August, and its stem is often three feet high. The flowers are occasionally white; and Curtis remarks, that the fine blue colour of the petals is convertible into a brilliant red by the acid secretion emitted by the ant. He says, "Mr. Miller, the engraver, assured me, that in Germany the boys often amuse themselves in producing this change of colour, by placing the blossoms on an ant-hill." This secretion, which is ejected by the wood ant when irritated, and called formic acid, is very powerful. The Blue Succory is a common flower of many European countries, and most plentiful in France and Germany, though it is there, as in our lands, rare upon the sandy soils.

RIBWORT PLANTAIN.

RIBWORT PLANTAIN.—*Plantago lanceolata.*

Class TETRANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* PLANTAGINEÆ.—PLANTAIN TRIBE.

ALTHOUGH this has been employed in agriculture as a pasture plant, and was once very generally believed to be a favourite food of cattle, yet the opinion of modern scientific agriculturists is so much against it, that it is now seldom sown. It is, however, frequent on our meadows and pastures, flowering during June and July, and where it abounds naturally is a certain indication of a dry soil. When it grows among grass, its leaves rise to a considerable height, but on barren soils they are shorter, broader, more spread over the ground, and sometimes assume a silvery hue. Baron Haller attributed the richness of the milk in the Alpine dairies to the frequency of the Ribwort and the Lady's Mantle on the pasture lands; but Linnæus ascertained that cows refuse it, and later observations have confirmed the fact. Another species of plantain which is common on our sea-coasts, (*Plantago maritima*,) has also an old repute as a plant much relished by cattle, and the Welsh call it the Sheep's-favourite-morsel, and the Suet-producing.

We have five wild species of plantain, and one of the most common of them all is that broad-leaved kind, the Greater Plantain, (*Plantago major*,) the seeds of which are so often gathered for birds. The leaves of this species are astringent, and frequently applied to wounds. The Highlanders ascribe to it such great virtues, that they call it by the name of *Slan-lus*, or the healing plant. Kalm says that in America they term it the Englishman's Foot, for they say that wherever a European has come, this plant has grown in his footsteps. It is sometimes called Way-bred; but this is probably a corruption of its old Saxon name of Wabret, by which it is yet commonly known in Teviotdale. This name occurs in our early poets, and one of them, humorously describing a Bee's pilgrimage, says—

"And with a wabret leaf he made a wallet,
With scrip to beg his crumbs and pick his sallet."

Another species, the Buck's-horn Plantain, (*Plantago coronopus*,) is common on gravelly and sterile soils, and often grows on sea-beaches.

TRAVELLER'S JOY.—*Clematis vitalba.*

Class POLYANDRIA. *Order* POLYGYNIA. *Nat. Order* RANUNCULACEÆ.—CROWFOOT TRIBE.

DURING May and June the hedges of our chalky pastures, especially in the southern counties of England, are decorated with white clusters of this flower. Nor, when its blossoms are over, does it cease to ornament the wayside; for long after green leaves in general have withered into brownness, the Clematis bough presents some verdant spray on which the eye may love to rest. So too on barren soils, and in spots far from refreshing streams, it often delights us with its greenness amidst the withered aspects of the vegetation around it; and when winter, with its frosts and keen blasts, has swept away both leaves and flowers, this climber is still beautiful with its large tufts of feathery seeds. It must, however, be acknowledged, that our graceful plant is often injurious to the hedges, by strangling the trees and bushes which it entwines. It is, too, very acrimonious in its properties, and will, if applied to the skin, raise a blister upon it; the green stalks are used by farmers to bind their gates and hurdles together, and

country boys smoke portions of them in imitation of tobacco pipes.

The Clematis is sometimes called Virgin's Bower, and Withywind, and Gerarde gave to it the well-merited name of Traveller's Joy. Nor is ours the only land whose waysides it enlivens. Backhouse saw the lofty shrubs of Table Cape, in Van Diemen's Land, overrun with a white Clematis, which if not identical with this, much resembled it, and was equally fitted to gratify the taste of the flower-loving wayfarer. Burchell, too, when on the shores of the Gariep River, could with difficulty disentangle himself from a very similar species, which climbed to the very summit of the trees, and covered them with its flowers and foliage. He remarks, "The English Traveller's Joy, in Europe, chiefly indicates a chalky substratum, and it is remarkable that this African plant, which much resembles it in habit and general appearance, is also an indication of a calcareous quality in the soil."

KNOT GRASS.

KNOT GRASS.—*Polygonum aviculare.*

Class Octandria. *Order* Trigynia. *Nat. Ord.* Polygoneæ. Persicaria Tribe.

There is not in all our land a plant more common than this; but having little beauty to recommend it, it is little regarded; yet as the poet says—

> "By the lone quiet grave,
> In the wild hedgerow the Knot-grass is seen,
> Down in the rural lane,
> Or on the verdant plain,
> Everywhere humble, and everywhere green."

Its small pinkish-white flowers are seated closely on its stem from May till September, but are redder and brighter during the height of summer than in earlier or later seasons. It is a useful little plant, for thousands of birds are nourished by its seeds and young shoots, and the caterpillar of the Knot Grass moth lives chiefly upon it. Ancient writers attributed to it many medicinal properties, and the well-known fact that it is much relished by cattle, won for it the praises of Milton and others of our earlier poets. Shakspeare, however, alluding to its tangling stem, which lies over the ground, calls it the "Hindering Knot-Grass." It is a very common plant in the

Swan River colony, and is described as being there, as with us, a pasture which is very agreeable to the animals feeding on it. It received its English name from the knottiness of its stems, and like many other plants which are eaten by cattle, it is called grass, though having no affinity with the true grasses. All domestic quadrupeds are said to eat it, and it is devoured with great avidity by swine. The seeds, though much smaller than those of the Buckwheat, have been used like them for crumpets, or ground for bread corn. Thunberg says, that in Japan a blue dye is procured from it.

We have nine wild species of this genus; almost all are very common plants, and several raise their pink spikes of flowers on moist lands and on the borders of streams. The root of the Common Bistort or Snakeweed, (*Polygonum bistorta*,) whose flesh-coloured flowers grow on marshy lands, is a powerful and valuable astringent. The large climbing plant, known in Van Diemen's Land as the Macquarie Harbour Vine, is a species of Polygonum, and its triangular seeds are used for puddings.

PERFORATED ST. JOHN'S WORT.

Hypericum perforatum.

Class POLYADELPHIA. *Order* POLYANDRIA. *Nat. Ord.* HYPERICINEÆ.—ST. JOHN'S WORT TRIBE.

THE English name of this bright yellow flower reminds us of the practices with which it was once connected. It was one of the flowers gathered by our forefathers to be thrown into the bonfires which were kindled in London on the Eve of St. John It was formerly worn in Scotland to preserve the wearer against witches and enchantments; and in several continental countries the superstition lingers yet, that it is a charm against thunder and lightning, and the machinations of evil spirits. In many parts of France and Germany, the peasantry still gather its golden blooms with much ceremony on St. John's Day, and hang them up in their windows and doorways to avert evil. Alfred Lear Huxford has alluded to a somewhat similar practice—

"So then about her brow
They bound Hypericum, whose potent leaves
Have sovereign power o'er all the sullen fits
And cheerless fancies that besiege the mind;
Banishing ever, to their native night,
Dark thoughts, and causing to spring up within
The heart distress'd, a glow of gladdening hope,
And rainbow visions of kind destiny."

The old name of this flower, Balm of the Warrior's Wound, is now almost forgotten; but in the olden time, physicians and poets alike celebrated its properties; and some medical writers deemed it so efficacious an internal remedy for hypochondriacal disorders, that they fancifully termed it *Fuga Dæmonum*. From a mistake of their meaning, probably, arose the popular ideas respecting this plant, which, in spite of the advance of modern science, are yet generally diffused throughout Europe. A good ointment is still made of the rosin-scented blossoms; they also tinge spirits and oil of a fine purple colour, and the dried plant, boiled with alum, dyes wool of a rich yellow hue.

The Perforated St. John's Wort is abundant in thickets and hedges, and flowers in July. The blossom, flower cup, and leaves are often tipped with minute black dots; and the latter are remarkable for being copiously sprinkled with small pellucid dots, which are most evident when the plant is held against the light. We have eleven species of the genus, all yellow, and much like the plant here represented.

HOUND'S-TONGUE.—*Cynoglossum officinale.*

Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* BORAGINEÆ.—BORAGE TRIBE.

ANY one who has looked upon this plant, at once distinguishes it from all others by the lurid purplish red hue of the blossom. Several of our wild flowers have tints which might be called purplish-red, but not one is of the same hue as this. Though not among our commonest flowers, yet it is abundant on some of the waste places and road-sides of our islands, blossoming in June and July. The whole plant is soft and downy, of a dull green, and disagreeable odour, like that of mice. It was formerly used in medicine, and its effects are said to be narcotic. An instance is related in the "Hist. Oxon.," in which the leaves of this plant, boiled by mistake for Comfrey, disturbed the health of a whole household, and proved fatal to some of its members. Cattle in general refuse to eat it, but the goat, which can with impunity feed upon the Deadly Nightshade and the Tobacco, is said sometimes to crop its foliage. Nor is the plant useless to the insect world, some of them adopting it as their especial food,

and the caterpillar of the scarlet tiger moth (*Phalæna dommula*) revelling upon it during the months of April and May. The lower leaves have long footstalks, and the plant usually grows to the height of two feet. The writer has always found it more common on chalk than on other soils.

We have besides a smaller but rarer species, the green-leaved Hound's-tongue, (*Cynoglossum sylvaticum*,) which, though bearing somewhat similar flowers, is easily distinguished from the common sort by its shining and brighter green leaves, quite free from down or hairiness. This blossoms during June and July, in some shady places, and by road-sides in the midland and eastern counties of England, and has been gathered too in the Carse of Gowrie in Scotland. The shape and texture of the leaf originated the name of this genus, which is formed from Greek words, signifying dog and tongue.

BROAD-LEAVED GARLIC; OR, RANSOMS.—*Allium ursinum.*

Class HEXANDRIA. *Order* DIGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* LILIACEÆ. LILY TRIBE.

IT is not wise when gathering a wild nosegay to place this flower among the others, though its clusters of white blossoms and bright-green leaves would render it ornamental. Few of our wild plants have a more powerful or a more disagreeable odour; and so long is it retained, that if placed in an herbarium, the other specimens near it become scented with garlic. The stem of this plant is triangular, and the leaves are so like those of the Lily of the Valley, that in the early part of May, the rambler in the moist wood might believe it to be full of that lovely plant, till some unwary footstep crushed a leaf, and the garlic was betrayed by its odour. The flower is not uncommon, either in the wood or on the hedge-bank, during the latter part of May, but has generally withered by the middle of June. In the Isle of Man it is very abundant, and the grave-yard of the church of Kirk Braddon is so full of it, that often when the

Sabbath bells are chiming, its odour is borne afar upon the breeze, as the feet of those who are going up to the house of God have trodden upon it. Gerarde says, "The leaves of Ransoms are stamped and eaten with fish, even as we do eate greene sauce, made with Sorrell."

We have seven other wild species of Garlic, most of which have purple flowers. No other kind is so frequent as this. Gerarde says of one of the species, "Those that worke in the mines affirme that they find this roote very powerful in defending them from the impure spirits, which often, in such places, are troublesome to them." Several species have bulbs among the flowers. One of the prettiest kinds is the Chive Garlic (*Allium Schœnoprasum*), which, though a rare plant in our meadows, is frequently cultivated in the cottage garden. The name of the genus is said to be taken from the Celtic word *all*, which signifies hot, or burning.

SAINTFOIN.

SAINTFOIN.—*Onobrychis sativa.*

Class DIADELPHIA. *Order* DECANDRIA. *Nat. Ord.* LEGUMINOSÆ. PEA AND BEAN TRIBE.

AMID the glowing hues which deck the landscape when June lavishes upon it all its wealth of leaves and flowers, few are brighter than the tints of the field of Saintfoin. The wind sweeps over the flowers, and they fall into red wave-like motion, rising again in glittering beauty, to tremble like banners beneath the gentler breeze. For more than two centuries these fields have given their tint to many portions of our rural districts, the plant being cultivated for the food which it yields to cattle, either while green, or when dried and made into hay. The Saintfoin flourishes on warm chalky lands, and few plants more rapidly than this increase the value of poor thin calcareous soils. The usual duration of the plant on a soil well adapted to it, is from eight to ten years. There are instances, however, of fields of Saintfoin which, having been neglected, have run into pastures, and on which plants have been found upwards of fifty years from the time of sowing. For more than a

century it has been cultivated on the Cotswold Hills, and there its roots have been traced down into stone quarries from ten to twenty feet in length.

But the Saintfoin is a wild flower too, growing on many a chalky hill and plain, as on that bleak moorland of Royston Heath, as well as on the Dover Cliffs, or some of the banks which skirt the inland lanes of Kent or other counties. Its name, Holy Hay, would tell us of some legend which time has swept away. Doubtless it was connected with some ancient superstition, and we might ask with Alfred Lear Huxford,—

"What have the pilgrims told
About this flower?
Said they, when in times of old
The Infant in the manger lay,
Thou thy blossoms didst display
And changed his humble birth-place
to a bower."

The French call the plant also L'Esparcet; the Italians, Esparzita, and Cedrangolo.

COMMON IVY.

COMMON IVY.—*Hedera Helix.*

Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* ARALIACEÆ. IVY TRIBE.

FEW besides the naturalist consider of how much value this plant is both to the songsters of our woodland, and to the insect world. Among its boughs the blackbird and the thrush can find shelter for their nests ere bush or tree has a green leaf on its branch, and many a shivering bird retreats thither from the cold blasts of spring and autumn. It is when the hips and haws and other wild fruits have perished, that the Ivy berries ripen; and as no frost injures them, they are, during winter and the early months of spring, the chief food of the Missel-thrush, the Wood-pigeons, and many other birds. The green flowers are useful too; for, blooming in October and November, when blossoms are scarce, they furnish a provision to millions of insects, which else must perish; and the latest of our brilliant winged creatures, the *Red* Admiral and the Peacock butterflies, yet hover over them on sunny days, sipping thence the nectar by which they are fed.

There are different opinions as to whether the ivy injures trees. When the woody stems are hard and strong, it seems most probable that they must do so, yet some botanists think with Calder Campbell, who pleads for the beautiful plant :—

"Oh, falsely they accuse me,
Who say I seek to check
The growing sapling's flourishing ;—
I better love to deck
The dead or dying branches
With all my living leaves.
'Tis for the old and wither'd tree,
The Ivy garlands weaves."

Sheep are fond of the Ivy. The soft wood of its stem is used for giving a smooth edge to knives, and the Highlanders make an ointment from its leaves. Among the ancients they formed the Poet's crown and the Bacchanalian wreath, and were supposed to prevent intoxication. In the Idylls of Theocritus our Ivy is alluded to, but Virgil tells of the Golden Ivy. There is little doubt that the plant of the poet was the yellow-berried species now so rare (*Hedera chrysocarpum*):

MEADOW SAFFRON.

MEADOW SAFFRON.—*Colchicum autumnale.*

Class HEXANDRIA. *Order* TRIGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* MELANTHACEÆ. MEADOW SAFFRON TRIBE.

To look upon this handsome flower as it expands among the meadow grasses, during the months of September and October, one would deem it a leafless plant. Yet that same root will, next spring, produce both leaves and fruit, though the blossom opens only to the autumnal season. The flowers of the Meadow Saffron are of a pretty delicate lilac hue, from two to six in number, emerging from a sheath, which issues from the solid bulb. They are exactly like those of the Crocus, except that they have six, instead of three stamens. They rise on long slender tubes, and dying away at the end of October, exhibit no signs of seed vessels or seeds. But the seeds lie buried in the bulb during winter, and when spring is again decking mead and bough, then the broad green leaves arise from the bulb, and the seeds, elevated on a footstalk, gradually increase in size and ripen by Midsummer. As has been remarked, this is a beautiful and providential

arrangement for their protection from the frosts and cold of winter. Most flowers have ripened and dispersed their seeds before the cold season; but as this flower appears so late in the year its seeds would probably not have time to be matured before winter; and thus they are secured within the bulb, at a depth from the surface, where frost cannot harm them, while at the proper season they rise to meet the sun which shall ripen, and the wind which shall scatter them.

We have but one native species of Colchicum, nor is this a common flower. The genus received its name from Colchis, where the plant was said to grow in great abundance. The French call it *Morte aux chiens*, and it is probably, in its fresh state, injurious to most animals. It has been known from earliest ages to possess very powerful medicinal properties, and is frequently given to allay the pains of gout and rheumatism. It has been employed as a substitute for the celebrated *eau médicinale*.

MICHAELMAS DAISY.—*Aster Tripolium.*

Class SYNGENESIA. *Order* SUPERFLUA. *Nat. Ord.* COMPOSITÆ. COMPOUND FLOWERS.

THIS plant is called also Sea Starwort, and is one of the few flowers which deck the saline soils in the neighbourhood of the ocean. It is very common on the salt marshes, not only of the sea, but of tidal rivers. Its blossom appears in August and September; the stem is often three feet high, and its clusters of pale lilac flowers overtop the strongly-scented and grey-green Southernwood, and the little fleshy-leaved Sandworts, and the tufts of Sea Lavander and of other smaller plants of the marsh. Like many other natives of saline soil, the stems and foliage are very succulent, and have a saltish flavour, and their surfaces are free from all down. It is not an uncommon circumstance to find a cluster of the Michaelmas Daisy, in which the lilac rays are quite absent, and the disk only is to be seen. Many of the plants which flourish in the neighbourhood of the sea, grow, too, on elevated mountains in inland countries. The Thrift and Sea Milkwort, and several others, are found on such spots; but our Starwort never grows wild but on salt land. It is, both in flower and foliage, of too pale a colour to be

highly ornamental, yet it lends a charm to spots whose aspect is dreary, and to a season whose flowers are daily becoming fewer in number.

"The marsh is bleak and lonely. Scarce a flower
Gleams in the waving grass. The rosy Thrift
Has paler grown since Summer bless'd the scene,
And the Sea Lavander, whose lilac blooms
Drew from the saline soil a richer hue
Than when they grew on yonder towering cliff,
Quivers in flowerless greenness to the wind.
No sound is heard, save when the sea-bird screams
Its lonely presage of the coming storm;
And the sole blossom which can glad the eye,
Is yon pale Starwort nodding to the wind."

We have but one species of the genus *Aster*, the name of which is significant of the starry form of all its flowers. But America is the native land of Michaelmas Daisies, and the multitudes of those which deck our gardens were brought thence. Lyell, speaking of the fir woods on the banks of the Piscataqua, says, "I have seen this part of North America laid down in some botanical maps, as the region of Asters and Golden Rods." He adds, that both are there very numerous and striking flowers.

CUCKOO PINT.—*Arum maculatum.*

Class MONŒCIA. *Order* POLYANDRIA. *Nat. Ord.* ARACEÆ. CUCKOO PINT TRIBE.

THIS plant is known in country places by the name of Wake Robin, and Lords and Ladies. It is very common in our English hedges, but is rare in Scotland, and in most parts of Ireland. It is in flower during April and May, and the club-shaped column, around which the pistils and stamens are situated, is sometimes of a deep violet, at others of a buff or pale green tint. The large shining leaves are often spotted, and in winter a thick cluster of rich orange-coloured berries surrounds the stem of the plant, until they are eaten by birds.

The root of the Arum is a tuber, and affords a quantity of farinaceous powder, which forms an excellent substitute for flour, and is sold for that purpose in Weymouth and Portland Island. The writer of these pages received a letter from a gentleman holding an important post at Gort, in Galway, stating that as the plant grew there in great abundance, he was desirous that the poor Irish, then suf-

fering from all the ills of want, should find in it a resource from starvation. He had tried various methods of preparing it. It had been boiled, baked, or dried in the sun; but though the acrid principle existing so powerfully in the uncooked root was much dissipated by these means, yet it was not wholly destroyed. He was recommended to grate it into water, and afterwards to pour off the liquid, and dry the sediment. The plan succeeded, and the benevolent inquirer had the satisfaction of procuring a tasteless and nutritious powder from the Arum root.

The root was much used in Queen Elizabeth's time for stiffening lawn, which was then but just introduced, and which, being so thin, needed strong starch to stiffen it. But the Dutch woman who came hither to teach the English ladies how to starch linen, made them so great proficients, that soon the ruffs were worn more than a yard deep. The starch made from the Arum, however, irritated the hands of those who used it.

HEDGE WOUNDWORT

HEDGE WOUNDWORT.—*Stachys sylvatica.*

Class Didynamia. *Order* Gymnospermia. *Nat. Ord.* Labiatæ. Labiate Tribe.

This plant is very frequent in woods and shady places during July and August, rearing its spike of purple flowers sometimes to the height of three feet. When bruised it has a disagreeable odour, and no animal is known to eat it, save the snail, which often leaves its rainbow-tinted trail upon its foliage. The flowers grow in whorls round the stem, and are usually about six in number. This, as well as all the other species, was considered to be of great service in stopping the effusion of blood. Gerarde says of the water species (*Stachys palustris*), that by binding it over the wound, he cured a man in Kent, who had been severely cut with a scythe; and that he also healed a wound made by one in Holborn, who had attempted self-destruction; "for which," adds the pious herbalist, "the name of God be praised." It was hence called Clowne's Woundwort and All-heal. The Hedge Woundwort is very hairy, though less so than some other of our native kinds. The hair or

down serves to protect plants from heat and cold, but is of use too to some of the insect tribe. One species of wild bee, which dwells in the cavities of trees, is skilled in using it. Kirby and Spence remark of this little creature, that it knew what materials would slowly conduct heat, long before Count Rumford's experiments had been made; and it attacks the leaves of the Woolly Woundwort (*Stachys lanata*), the Rose Campion, and similar plants, and scraping hence the down with its fore-legs, rolls it into a little ball, and sticking it on the plaister which covers the cells, renders them impervious to every change of temperature; so that, say these writers, "this bee may be said to exercise the trade of a clothier."

We have six native species of Woundwort, all very similar to that represented in the engraving. They are all in blossom during July and August. The Downy Woundwort (*Stachys germanica*), a plant of our limestone soils, is often cultivated in gardens on account of the silky foliage.

MEADOW VETCHLING.

MEADOW VETCHLING.—*Lathyrus pratensis.*

Class DIADELPHIA. *Order* DECANDRIA. *Nat. Ord.* LEGUMINOSÆ.—PEA AND BEAN TRIBE.

DURING July and August this plant is very frequent in moist meadows, sometimes rendering the grassy bank of the stream quite bright with its yellow flowers. It grows also, with scarcely less luxuriance, on stiff clay lands. The blossoms are in loose clusters, about six or eight together, and the climbing stem is often two or three feet long, and by its clasping tendrils clings to some stronger object near it. Cattle are said to be very fondof this plant, and the author of Essays relating to Agriculture and Rural Affairs, recommends its cultivation on various accounts. He remarks, that it annually yields a great amount of forage of the very best quality, fit for pasture or hay. It is also an abiding plant, never leaving the ground where it has once been established, and increasing so rapidly by its running roots, that a very few plants at first put into a field would soon spread over the whole, and stock it sufficiently.

We have eight British species of Lathyrus,

comprehending the Vetchlings, and the three species of Everlasting Pea. They are of the Leguminous tribe, having butterfly-shaped blossoms, and bearing their seeds in pods; and some of them, like the Meadow Vetchling, are pretty and graceful plants. The smaller Yellow Vetchling (*Lathyrus Aphaca*) has flowers of the same hue as those of the engraving, but the appearance of the plant is very different, as the blossom grows singly on the flower-stalk. It is found on sandy and gravelly fields, from June to August, but is not a common plant. The Crimson Vetchling, or Grass Vetch (*Lathyrus Nissolia*), is much more frequent, growing in many parts of England, on the borders of grassy fields, and bearing in May a pretty crimson flower and long grass-like leaves, without tendrils. There is also a Blue Marsh Vetchling (*Lathyrus palustris*) which grows in moist meadows in several parts of England, while the rare Rough-podded Vetchling (*Lathyrus hirsutus*) with its crimson standard is found only in cultivated fields.

YELLOW IRIS.—*Iris Pseud-acorus.*

Class TRIANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* IRIDACEÆ. IRIS TRIBE.

THIS handsome flower waves its bright petals over many of the streamlets which wind their way among our rustic landscape. It grows too in moist meadows and woods. It is also called Corn-flag and Water Sedge, while in Scotland it is commonly termed Water Skeggs. Charlotte Smith thus alludes to it:—

"Retiring May to lovely June
Her latest garland now resigns;
The banks with cuckoo flowers are strewn,
The wood-walks blue with columbines;
And with its reeds the wandering stream
Reflects the flag-flower's golden beam."

The root of the Corn-flag is scentless, and of sweetish flavour. Either infused in water, or powdered and taken as snuff, it produces a sense of heat in the mouth and throat, which has been known, in some individuals, to remain for twelve hours. The root is sometimes used medicinally, but is so powerful that it should be employed with great caution. An infusion, like that of galls, and other vegetable astringents, may with the addition of iron be made into ink, or it forms a good black dye; and the inhabitants of Scotland and the adjacent isles have long been in the habit of using

it for both these purposes. This root is also recommended as a cure for tooth-ache. Dr. Johnston quotes Ettmüller as saying, "But above all which I have hitherto known, the juice of the roots of the Iris, rubbed upon the tooth that is painful, or the root itself chewed in the mouth, in an instant, as if by a charm, draws away the pain of the teeth, arising from what cause soever. He that communicated it to me affirmed that he had tried it forty times, at least, with like success. I myself also have tried it; a great many others have done the same by my persuasion, and I hardly ever knew it to fail." A cosmetic is also made from this plant, and the roasted seeds are recommended as a good substitute for coffee.

The name of this genus was given on account of the various and beautiful colours exhibited by several of the species. According to Plutarch, the word Iris signified in the ancient Egyptian tongue, eye, the eye of heaven. We have one other wild kind, the Stinking Iris (*Iris fœtidissima*), which is of unusual occurrence, except in the West of England, where it inhabits thickets. The flowers are smaller than those of the Corn-flag, and of a livid purple hue.

NARROW LEAVED EVERLASTING

NARROW-LEAVED EVERLASTING PEA.—*Lathyrus sylvestris.*

Class DIADELPHIA. *Order* DECANDRIA. *Nat. Ord.* LEGUMINOSÆ. PEA AND BEAN TRIBE.

THIS pretty wild pea is not a very common flower, though often found in woods and thickets in the middle and south of England. The specimen from which the drawing for the engraver was made, was gathered at Higham, near Rochester, in Kent; and a good deal of the plant grows in the woods and lanes around the venerable ruins of Lymne Castle, near Hythe, a spot so interesting to the antiquary, from its Roman remains. It creeps among the bushes too on Salisbury Crags, and on the coast of Angusshire. The flowers are usually about four or five together, and the stem climbs to the height of four or five feet, clinging to any object near it. The blossoms are of greenish pink and purple, the stem is broad and expanded, and each leafstalk bears two leaflets and a tendril. It blossoms in July and August, resembling somewhat the Everlasting Pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*) of our gardens, though far inferior to it in size and beauty of colour. This Broad-leaved Pea is often

enumerated among our wild flowers, though it is most probably the outcast of the garden.

The genus Lathyrus, if we include the Broad-leaved flower, contains eight native species, but five of these are Vetchlings. The only other wild Pea is the sea-side species (*Lathyrus pisiformis*). This grows on several of our sea beaches, but is by no means a common flower. The seeds are rather bitter, but in 1555, when great famine prevailed in England, they were used as food, and thousands of poor families were, by their means, preserved from starvation. The seeds of all this tribe are more numerous in dry than in moist seasons, and doubtless afford a valuable nutriment to birds; while those of some of our native species of Lathyrus may safely be used as food for man. Like all our native Leguminous plants, the seeds are contained in pods, and the flowers are papilionaceous, or butterfly-shaped.

COMMON CREEPING CINQUEFOIL.

COMMON CREEPING CINQUEFOIL.

Potentilla reptans.

Class ICOSANDRIA. *Order* POLYGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* ROSACEÆ. ROSE TRIBE.

IT would be difficult to discover the remedial properties once believed to belong to the pretty flowers which are included in this genus, and which procured for it its scientific name. Potential we cannot deem them; for, saving some slight power in stopping the effusion of blood from a wound, which a few possess, no service is done by them to modern generations. Enough however it is for the lover of wild flowers, that they are beautiful, that they deck the waysides where he loves to wander, and have power to awaken pleasant thoughts and old memories of green fields and clear streams and waving boughs, and the blue sky bending over all. Of the eleven native species of Cinquefoil, that represented here is the most frequent. Its stems, taking root at the joints, creep over meadows, pastures, and hedge-banks, bearing the soft velvety yellow flowers and a great profusion of leaves from June till August; and long before the flowers appear, before the hedgebank has put forth a single blossom, save the daisy and the chickweed,

graceful sprays of its foliage are lying among the grass.

The greater number of our Cinquefoils are mountain flowers, gracing the banks of paths traversed by the footsteps of few travellers, and where their yellow or white blossoms live and die ungathered and unseen. Some of them, however, like the Creeping Cinquefoil, are common flowers. Such is the white-flowered strawberry-leaved Cinquefoil (*Potentilla Fragariastrum*), which, in March and April, has leaves and flowers so like the strawberry plants, that all save the botanist would deem its blossom the harbinger of the ruddy fruit of summer. The Hoary Cinquefoil (*Potentilla argentea*), with its flowers smaller than those of the creeping kind, and its leaves downy on their under surface, is less frequent in meadows and by road sides on a gravelly soil, blooming in June; and frequent as any of the species, is the handsome Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), with its leaves pale beneath, with a profuse quantity of silky down, and flowers shaped exactly like those of the engraving.

COMMON BUGLE.

COMMON BUGLE.—*Ajuga reptans.*

Class Didynamia. *Order* Gymnospermia *Nat. Ord.* Labiatæ. Labiate Tribe.

When wandering during May or June on the moist meadows or pasture lands, we rarely fail to find the Bugle blooming there. Its flowers, though commonly of a purplish blue colour, vary to pale lilac, and occasionally to a pure white. The stem is erect, but the creeping shoots proceeding from it distinguish the species. It is too pretty and frequent a wild flower to have been unnoticed by poets, and we find it enumerated by Clare, among the wild ornaments of Cowper Green:

> "Thine's full many a pleasing bloom
> Of blossoms lost to all perfume;
> Thine, the Dandelion flowers,
> Gilt with dew like suns with showers;
> Harebells thine, and Bugles blue,
> And Cuckoo flowers all sweet to view:
> The wild Woad on each road we see;
> And medicinal Betony
> By thy woodside railing reeves,
> With Antique Mullein's flannel leaves."

The Bugle is still a village remedy for various diseases, and its properties are astringent. It is rarely now used for wounds, though it was once much relied on as a vulnerary. Its old

names are Brown Bugle, Middle Comfrey, Sicklewort, and Carpenter's Herb; the last two being significant of its uses in healing the wounds made by the sharp implements of the husbandman or mechanic.

We have four wild species of this genus, but one only besides the Common Bugle is at all a frequent flower. This is the Ground Pine or Yellow Bugle (*Ajuga Chamæpitys*), which is not uncommon on sandy or gravelly fields in Kent and Surrey, blossoming during April and May. Its yellow blooms are formed like those of the engraving, but the whole appearance of the plant is very dissimilar, as the leaves are long and narrow, resembling those of a Pine, and the flowers, which are yellow, spotted with red, seem to hide among them. The two remaining species, the Pyramidal Bugle (*Ajuga pyramidalis*), and the Alpine Bugle (*Ajuga alpina*), have blue or purple flowers. The former grows on Highland pastures; the latter on mountains.

NETTLE-LEAVED BELL-FLOWER.

NETTLE-LEAVED BELL-FLOWER.

Campanula Trachelium.

Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* CAMPANULACEÆ.—BELL-FLOWER TRIBE.

BEAUTIFUL as the woods are in July with their well-clad boughs waving in the breeze, yet woodland flowers are fewer in number than in the spring. Some large species of Bell-flower are, however, conspicuous among the bushes of the wood or hedge bank, and that represented in the engraving is very common there. It is a hairy plant, with an angular stem, and large purple blossoms; while the leaf is sufficiently like that of a nettle to give to the species its distinctive name. Though so frequent in the green lanes and woods of some parts of England, it is, in Scotland, a rare flower, but has been found on the old walls of Mugdoch Castle, near Glasgow, and in a few other places. It has been described by the poet:—

"And there with hispid leaf and blooms
Of darken'd sapphire, richly swinging,
The Bell-flower nettle-leaved illumes
With azure light the woods; while bringing
Around it troops of insect things,
With merry song and dancing wings."

This plant, though often more than two feet high, is neither the largest nor the handsomest of our wild Campanulate flowers. The giant Bell-flower (*Campanula latifolia*) far outrivals it, not only in the beauty of its brighter blue blossoms, but in the size of the whole plant. Except in some of the northern counties, it is rare in England; but it is a common flower in the woody glens of Scotland.

The genus received its name from Campana, a bell, the species having the flowers bell-shaped. We have ten native kinds. Some of them, like the Harebell, are graceful and delicate; but several, like the nettle-leaved species, are showy plants. One of this family, the Rampion Bell-flower (*Campanula Rapunculus*), grows wild in some of the gravelly lands of our midland counties, flowering in July and August. Its roots are much cultivated in France and Italy, and occasionally in our own country. They are called Ramps, and are eaten boiled with sauce, or cold with vinegar and pepper.

WOOD LOOSESTRIFE.—*Lysimachia nemorum.*

Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* PRIMULACEÆ.—PRIMROSE TRIBE.

THIS flower, which is called also Yellow Pimpernel, is very frequent in woods and copses, and other shady places, from May till July. The stems are weak, and trail over the ground, and the foliage is of a remarkably light and delicate green hue. It belongs to a genus of plants once greatly valued, because of the absurd notion entertained by the ancients, that, when put upon the yokes of restive oxen, they rendered them gentle and submissive. Linnæus says, that the genus was named from Lysimachus, King of Sicily, who first used it for this purpose; and the English word Loosestrife is a translation of its old Greek name. The Wood species was called in Gerarde's time *Serpentaria;* because, as he says, "If serpents be wounded they do heal themselves with this herb." The Loosestrifes have, however, notwithstanding their reputation, little beyond their beauty to recommend them to our regard; but they are all pretty yellow flowers, some of them much more conspicuous than the little wood species, and often very ornamental to the sides of streams and

rivers. We have five native species. The Great Yellow Loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*) is by no means an uncommon flower during July, by the river side, or on moist meadows or bogs of England, though in Scotland it is rare. It is sometimes two or three feet high, with large clusters of golden blossoms. It has scarcely any odour, and no modern botanist has any high opinion of its properties or uses; but of old times, if we may trust to poets, it was thought to possess some powers which rendered it serviceable to man. Some lines in the Faithful Shepherdess allude to it:—

> "Yellow Lysimachus, to give sweet rest
> To the faint shepherd; killing, where it comes,
> All busy gnats, and every fly that hums."

The tall Tufted Loosestrife (*Lysimachus thyrsiflora*), and the Four-leaved Loosestrife (*Lysimachia punctata*), are rare flowers; but the Creeping Loosestrife (*Lysimachia nummularia*) is, like our yellow Pimpernel, common in watery places, flowering in June. It is called also Moneywort and Herb Twopence, and has creeping stems. It is a hardy plant, and is often cultivated in gardens upon rock-work.

COMMON SOAPWORT.

COMMON SOAPWORT.—*Saponaria officinalis.*

Class DECANDRIA. *Order* DIGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* CARYOPHYLLEÆ. CHICKWEED TRIBE.

THIS plant is one of those which seem to follow the footsteps of man, and is much more frequently found near villages than in the more secluded spots of the landscape. It is in blossom during July and August, on road-sides, hedge-banks, and the margins of woods, often at the distance of two or three minutes' walk from the village. It usually grows to the height of a foot, or a foot and a half, with a rather stout cylindrical stem, and the cluster of flowers is of a pale rose colour. It was formerly called Bruisewort, and considered healing in its nature. A double variety is cultivated in gardens, and Gerarde says of it, "It is planted in gardens for the flowers' sake, to the decking up of houses, for the which purpose it chiefly serveth."

We have but one wild species of *Saponaria*, and both the English and scientific names allude to the soapy principle which exists more or less in all the plants of the genus. Our Soapwort will make a lather with hot water,

and in former times it was used in baths to cleanse and beautify the skin. It will remove stains or grease almost as well as soap.

The saponine principle of plants has been thought to be of a poisonous nature. M. Malapert and M. Bonnet made several experiments on plants containing it, and they stated not only its deleterious principle, but its existence in plants in which it had not been suspected. Though most plentiful in all parts of the Soapwort, it is contained also in the Corn Cockle (*Agrostemma Githago*), but in this instance the saponine is found only in the roots and unripe seeds. As much saponine exists in the Nottingham Catchfly (*Silene nutans*) as in the Soapwort, and here it is diffused throughout all parts of the plant except the seed. Other chemists have discovered it in several species of the Pink and Carnation genus, in various species of our wild Lychnis, and even in the Scarlet Pimpernel. It has long been known that the nuts of the Horse Chestnut-tree contain a large quantity of saponine.

COMMON CISTUS; OR, ROCK ROSE.

Helianthemum vulgare.

Class POLYANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* CISTACEÆ. ROCK-ROSE TRIBE.

THIS is truly a flower of the sun, for its delicate petals are always closed when clouds obscure the noon-day sky, or when evening and its twilight and deepening shadow warns blossoms and leaves to close before the coming dews. Large clumps of Rock Roses may be seen adorning our barren lands; and the dry chalky cliff, or open dreary down, or hilly pasture where the soil is of chalk or gravel, often shows a gleam of beauty from their numerous golden flowers. The crumpled petals are very fragile, looking as if a rough wind would scatter them; and indeed all the Cistus tribe are remarkably ephemeral, even among the flowers of the field, which have from oldest times been symbols of quick decay. Such is the irritability of the stamens of the flower, that if touched ever so gently, they lie down upon the petals. Calder Campbell has some pleasing lines upon it:—

"Midst Alpine clefts, or in rare grassy spots
Of mountain-ridges, where the wild bee dwells,
The Rock Rose with her yellow blossoms dots
Its dark and hoary leaves: a thousand spells

Of delicate grace around it lingering, bind
The poet-gatherer's heart to Beauty—found
Afar from beaten tracks, for Nature kind
Scatters her richest gems o'er loneliest ground."

This plant blossoms from June to August, and several variously coloured species are cultivated in gardens. The rose-coloured variety of this species, called by some writers *Cistus roseus*, was planted in the Botanic Garden of Chelsea more than a century since, and is thought by some botanists to be the Rose of Sharon. Speaking of this place, "I observed nothing," says Munro, "bearing the appearance of what we call a rose, and unless the Rose of Sharon be the *Cistus roseus*, which grows there abundantly, I know not what it is." Mr. Wilde, who travelled in the same region, also remarks that the Vale of Sharon abounds with the white and red Cistus, and expresses his opinion that this is the flower intended by the Scripture writers.

The name of the genus is derived from sun and flower, probably because the plant opens only in sunshine. There are five British species, but the one here represented is the only one which is a common flower.

COMMON ENCHANTER'S NIGHTSHADE.

COMMON ENCHANTER'S NIGHTSHADE.—*Circæa Lutetiana.*

Class DIANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* ONAGRARIÆ. WILLOW-HERB TRIBE.

FROM the botanical and familiar name of this flower, one would infer that it was among the plants renowned in the annals of superstition for magical uses. The Henbane and various other herbs were in old times used in incantations, and doubtless, their use consisted in stupifying or exciting by their fumes the mental powers of those subjected to their influence. In any narcotic or other powerful principle, however, our Enchanter's Nightshade is quite deficient, and it received its name simply because it grows in those dark, damp places to which the magicians resorted, in order that their gloom might affect the imaginations of their victims. Such spots were deemed fitted for the spells of the enchantress Circe. Charlotte Smith has described one in her poems:—

"Re-echoed by the walls the owl obscene
Hoots to the night, as through the ivy green,
Whose matted tods the arch and buttress bind,
Sobs, in low gusts, the melancholy wind;
The Conium there, her stalks bedropp'd with red,
Rears, with Circæa, neighbour of the dead;

Atropa, too, that, as the beldams say,
Shows her black fruit to tempt and to betray,
Nods by the mouldering shrine of Monica."

The Conium is the Hemlock, the Atropa the Deadly Nightshade.

Notwithstanding its evil associations, our Enchanter's Nightshade is a pretty little flower, and a frequent one too in shady places, while it often grows wild in the garden, among the bushes and trees. The blossoms, which are white or rose-coloured, appear in June and July. The stem is about a foot, or a foot and a half high, and the root is creeping. It is as common beneath the shadow cast by the tall trees of Canadian woods, as in the recesses of ours.

We have another wild species of the genus growing in woods, coppices, and stony places, especially by the sides of lakes in the north of England and in Scotland; flowering in July and August. This is the Alpine Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circæa alpina*). It much resembles the common kind, the flowers being exactly like it, and the leaves differing in little except their longer stalks. It is usually, however, altogether a smaller plant than the former species. Neither kind has any odour.

SWEET MILK VETCH.

SWEET MILK VETCH.—*Astragalus glycyphyllus.*

Class DIADELPHIA. *Order* DECANDRIA. *Nat. Ord.* LEGUMINOSÆ. PEA AND BEAN TRIBE.

SHOULD a person unaccustomed to this plant find the leaves in April, when as yet it had not blossomed, he would probably think that the green spray was some seedling from the tree of our gardens, called the False Acacia, for it much resembles it. The foliage is larger than that of any of our wild vetches. The plant grows in woods and thickets, chiefly on a gravelly or calcareous soil, and the dingy yellow butterfly-shaped flowers appear in May. The stem is prostrate, extending two or three feet over the ground, and the pods in which the seeds are enclosed are about an inch long, and curved in shape. This Milk Vetch is rare in Scotland, and found more in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh than elsewhere; nor is it a very frequent English flower, for though abundant in some rural districts, it is quite unknown in many. The flavour of the stems and leaves is sweetish, but bitter. The plant is apparently disliked by cattle, as they leave

it untouched, otherwise it would be a valuable plant for culture, because of its abundant foliage.

We have another native species, the Purple Mountain Milk Vetch (*Astragalus hypoglottis*), easily distinguished from the sweet species, not only by the colour of its flowers, but by its much smaller size. Its stem is weak, and only a few inches high, with small sprays of leaflets, and a cluster of flowers very large in proportion to the foliage. It is of a bluish-purple colour, and sometimes white. It grows on dry, gravelly, or chalky pasture lands, chiefly in the south of England. It is very plentiful on the celebrated Royston Moor. The seed-vessels are erect and hairy, and it flowers during July.

Botanists enumerate a third species of Milk Vetch (*Astragalus alpinus*), which has been found only in the Glen of the Dole, Clova, and is distinguished by its spreading branched stem, and spikes of white drooping flowers tipped with purple; its seed-vessels hang down, and are covered with black hairs.

COMMON EYEBRIGHT.

COMMON EYEBRIGHT.—*Euphrasia officinalis.*

Class DIDYNAMIA. *Order* ANGIOSPERMIA. *Nat. Ord.* SCROPHULARINEÆ. FIGWORT TRIBE.

OUR pretty Euphrasy received its name from Euphrosyne, and is thus expressive of joy or pleasure. It merits the distinction, for few who love flowers would look on it without gratification. Its little blossoms are sprinkled over the sides of chalky cliffs, or they stud the short grass of mountains or open plains, or are almost hidden among the taller herbage of the pasture land. The plant is sometimes only an inch in height, and bears but a single flower; but it varies so much, that on situations where it thrives well, it becomes branched and taller, and many blossoms are scattered among its leaves. The foliage is of bright green, and deeply notched; and the blossoms are either white or pale lilac, streaked with purple. The plant is very frequent, flowering from June to August. Beautiful as it is, its name probably refers rather to its properties than its loveliness. It was supposed, some centuries since, that the application of this plant would "make old eyes young again;" and our old herbalist,

Culpepper, says, "If the herb was but as much used as it is neglected, it would have spoilt the spectacle-maker's trade, and a man would think, that reason should teach people to prefer the preservation of their natural sight before artificial spectacles." Milton apparently held the general opinion of its virtues, and represents the Archangel Michael as employing it to quicken the vision of our first parent, when disobedience to his Maker had dimmed alike the physical and mental eye. When directing Adam to look forward into coming ages, he first

> "The film removed
> Which that false fruit, which promised clearer sight,
> Had bred; then purged with Euphrasy and Rue
> The visual nerve, for he had much to see."

No record remains to tell of the value of Rue to the dimmed eyesight, but the use of Euphrasy is still common in villages, though some oculists consider that it is injurious to the eye. Lightfoot says, that the Highlanders make an infusion of the plant with milk, and anoint the patient's eye with a feather dipped into the liquid.

RED CAMPION.

RED CAMPION.—*Lychnis dioica.*

Class DECANDRIA. *Order* PENTAGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* CARYOPHYLLEÆ.—CHICKWEED TRIBE.

THE attention of wanderers in green meadows is often attracted by this handsome flower. Though no sweet odour reaches us as the wind blows over the hedge-bank on which it flourishes, yet the absence of fragrance is compensated by its beauty, and it is conspicuous among the many flowers of May or of the still richer month of June. Country people call this, as well as another species, Bachelor's Button. It is frequently one or two feet in height.

There is a white variety of this flower, which may easily be known by its resemblance to it in all respects, save the hue of its blossoms. It has a sweet fragrance in the evening, and is on this account called by some botanists *Lychnis vespertina.* It is occasionally cultivated as a border flower; but though its perfume is agreeable, yet it is far less powerful than that of some night-flowering blossoms; such, for example, as the night-blowing Stock of our gardens, or the night-flowering Catchfly of

our cornfields. Both the Red and White Campions are frequent flowers, and both are dicœcious; that is, they have stamens in one flower and pistils in another. The ovary or seed-vessel is always much larger in the white than in the red kind.

The genus Lychnis has, like that of Silene, the English name of Catchfly, on account of the clammy secretion on its stems and foliage; though this is not quite so abundant in any of our native Lychnises as in some species of the allied genus. The flowers and other characteristics of the two genera are indeed so similar, that only a practised botanist discovers the difference. The name of Lychnis is taken from a lamp, because the cottony down of some of the species has been burnt for wicks. We have, besides the Red or White Campion, three other species. Two of them grow on mountains, but one is a common flower. This is the Meadow Lychnis or Ragged Robin (*Lychnis Flos Cuculi*), with rose-coloured jagged petals. It is common during June in moist meadows.

COMMON SORREL.

COMMON SORREL.—*Rumex acetosa.*

Class HEXANDRIA. *Order* DIGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* POLYGONEÆ. PERSICARIA TRIBE.

ALMOST all whose early life has been spent in the country, are familiar with this plant. Its stem, often two feet and sometimes three in height, looks gay, when in June and July the large bunches of small red flowers give their colour to the meadow or other grassy spots. The leaves and juicy stems, though not so powerfully acid as those of the Wood Sorrel, have, however, a very agreeable acid flavour when the plant is in full season, though in the early months of spring they are almost tasteless. They are sometimes boiled as spinach, or are used to flavour salads and soups. The plant, by cultivation, increases both in size and acidity, and is often reared in gardens for the use of the table. The Laplanders use the foliage to turn their milk sour, and in Iceland, as well as in France, it is eaten with fish. The flowers are red tinged with green, and as they increase in size become of a purplish colour; and the root is very astringent, and is considered to possess valuable medicinal properties. When dried and boiled, it yields a good

red dye. All our domestic animals are fond of this and the other species of sorrel.

A smaller species, called Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), is very frequent in dry pastures, and, wherever it abounds, may be regarded as a certain indication of barren land. Haller observes that it is often found growing in coal-yards; and it flourishes wherever iron prevails in the soil. It is very variable in size, growing to the height of from five to ten inches, and becoming, at the end of summer, of a rich red colour. Besides its smaller size, it is distinguishable from the common species by the form of its leaves; for though the shape of those on the stem varies very much, yet the root-leaves taper towards the end, and are at the base arrow-shaped.

These Sorrels are both included in the Dock genus, and their flowers are very similar to the blossoms of those plants, but the leaves of the Docks are not acid.

CUCKOO FLOWER.—*Cardamine pratensis.*

Class TETRADYNAMIA. *Order* SILIQUOSA. *Nat. Ord.* CRUCIFERÆ. CRUCIFEROUS TRIBE.

SEVERAL of our wild flowers have a name which connects them with the bird whose note is one of the sweet voices of the spring. Thus the Wood Sorrel was of old called Cuckoo's Meat; and Cuckoo Flower is still the name of a species of Lychnis, while the Cuckoo buds of Shakspeare were our Buttercups. The flower of the engraving is the "Lady's Smock all silver white" of our great dramatist; and it is said to have been thus called because its whitish blossoms, when thickly scattered among the grass, might remind one of linen laid there to bleach. The plant blooms in May, and before the sun has fully whitened it, is of a delicate lilac colour. It is sometimes found double. It is about a foot high, and the root-leaves are differently formed from those on the stem, the leaflets on the latter being roundish and slightly toothed, while those of the former are slender and uncut at the edges. The foliage is pungent, and has been used for salad, but it has not the pleasant flavour of the water-cress,

which is so often its companion on the borders of the stream. The Cuckoo Flower is very plentiful in moist meadows, and the double variety is remarkably proliferous, as the leaflets produce new plants when they come in contact with the ground, and when the flowers wither, a stalked flower-bud rises from their centres.

This genus received its name from two Greek words, signifying the "heart," and "to fortify;" because of its supposed strengthening properties. It contains five native species, and one other is as abundant in the moist meadow, as is the Cuckoo Flower. This is the Hairy Bitter Cress (*Cardamine hirsuta*). Its flowers are small and quite white, and its height varies from four inches to a foot. In dry situations it ripens its seeds in March or April, but on moist shady places it continues in flower from March till the end of the summer. The leaves and young flower-stems afford a pleasant salad.

BLADDER CAMPION, OR CATCHFLY.

BLADDER CAMPION; OR, CATCHFLY.

Silene inflata.

Class DECANDRIA. *Order* TRIGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* CARYOPHYLLEÆ. CHICKWEED TRIBE.

OUR engraving offers the representation of a flower which is very familiar to most English readers, and yet there are some districts, as the neighbourhood of Tonbridge Wells, where the plant, so common elsewhere, is regarded as a rarity. It grows in meadows, but is more frequent by road-sides, flowering from June to August. It is very variable both in the size and number of its white flowers, and the shape of its leaves, which have, however, always a sea-green bloom upon their surface; while the flower-cup, veined as if with a network, and inflated like a bladder, distinguishes it from the other species. The young shoots have the odour and flavour of green peas, and are sometimes boiled as asparagus; though the writer of these pages has found them too bitter to prove agreeable. They are, however, perfectly wholesome, and the bitterness might be removed by blanching. Bryant, in his *Flora Dietetica*, says that their culture would well reward the gardener's trouble. This flower

was formerly called Spatling. The botanical name of the genus is formed from the word Saliva, and the English name refers also to the viscid secretion of several of the species. In the Bladder Campion this is not very great, but in some it is so profuse that the stems and leaves are to be seen covered with small black insects, which they have attracted, and then held prisoners. We have ten native species, and some are interesting on account of their being night-blooming flowers. The night-flowering Catchfly (*Silene noctiflora*), with large reddish-white blossoms, is deliciously scented in the evening. No less fragrant are the flowers of one variety of the Nottingham Catchfly. This is by some writers called *Silene paradoxa*. It grows on Dover Cliffs, and hundreds daily pass it during May, and see only the white blossoms, looking as if the sun had withered them. Yet by six o'clock in the evening, the grassy spots seem whitened by its stars, and the perfume appears to the author to be more powerful than that of any other wild flower.

COMMON THRIFT.—*Statice Armeria.*

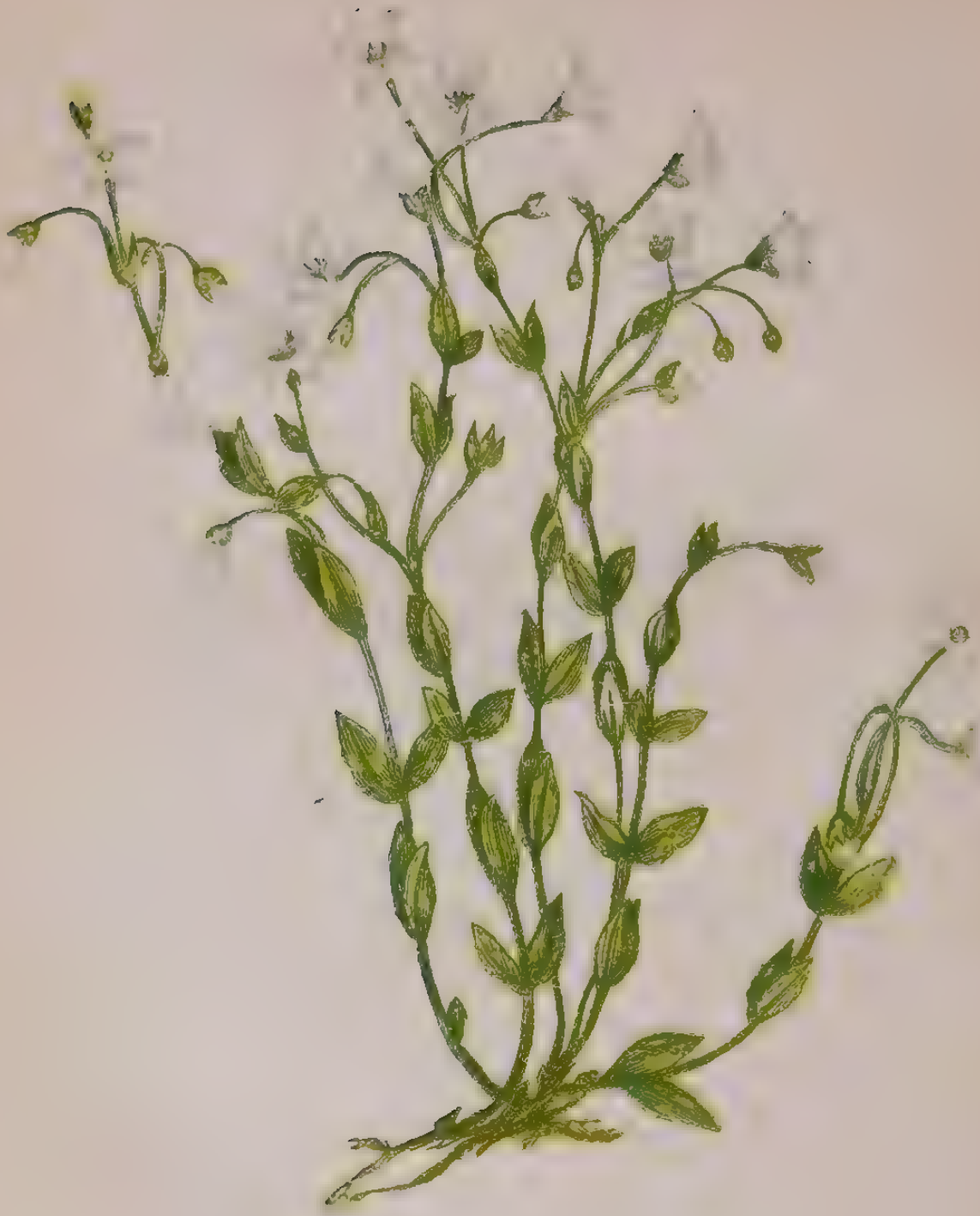
Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* PENTAGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* PLUMBAGINEÆ. THRIFT TRIBE.

THE salt marsh, covered with its short grasses and maritime plants, is usually a treeless dreary waste. Yet a few flowers spring up there, as if to remind us that there is no spot on this wide world on which the Great Creator has not scattered some object of interest or beauty; just as there is no human life so sad, but that some joy can find room to grow. Large patches of the Thrift may be seen from afar on the marsh, sometimes brightening it into a deep rose-colour, but more often giving it a pale pink or lilac hue. The flowers appear from June to August, forming round heads of blossoms, interspersed with chaffy scales, and growing on downy stalks to the height of four or five inches. The summit of the flower-stalk is cased in a brown membranous sheath, and the slender leaves all proceed from the roots.

This plant is called also Sea Gilliflower, and our old writers term it Ladies' Cushions, while it is known in France as the *Gazon d' Espagne*. It is well named Thrift, for it will thrive in spots where little nutriment is afforded by the

soil; and far up the cliff on the sea-shore, it blooms among the crevices, often to be seen by no eye save that of the wild sea-bird, whose nest is perched in some cavity near it. It flourishes, too, on elevated inland mountains. When it is a plant of the saline soil, it possesses iodine and salts of soda; but when it grows inland, it loses the iodine, and exchanges soda for potash.

The genus Statice was named from the Greek word, to stop; either because the tangling stems would arrest the footstep, or that some of the plants were supposed to arrest disease. It, however, appears originally to have belonged to another genus. There are besides the Thrift, three British species, which are not very similar to it, and are called Sea Lavander, from their lilac-tinted flowers.



CATHARTIC FLAX.—*Linum catharticum.*

Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* PENTAGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* LINEÆ. FLAX TRIBE.

THIS little flower is very plentiful on dry grassy spots, during June and July, but is so inconspicuous as to be often overlooked, its stem being seldom more than five or six inches high. It is a pretty slender plant, and small as it is, is not without its uses. In country places it is often called Mill Mountain, and an infusion, made either from the fresh or dried plant, is an old medicine for rheumatism, and has been recommended for this malady on the authority of some eminent botanists. The small white flowers droop gracefully before expansion.

The genus Linum is named from the Celtic word *Lin*, thread, on account of the uses of some of the plants. We have, besides our White Flax, two wild species of a blue colour, the blossoms of which are of the same form as this little vase-like flower, but they are very much larger. The Common Flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) is the species which is usually

cultivated for commerce, but as its seeds sometimes spring up in our corn-fields, it is by some writers enumerated among our wild flowers. It has large purplish-blue blossoms, and affords, in the strong fibres of its stems, the valuable material for our thread and linen, while the seed is serviceable for its oil. The Perennial Flax (*Linum perenne*) is more truly wild. It is a beautiful blue blossom, so fragile that it will scarcely bear gathering, as its petals are scattered to the winds on the gentlest touch. When bowing down to the gale which sweeps across the chalky hills, it is a most graceful and elegant little flower. It blooms in June and July, and is usually about a foot in height. Its fibres afford as good a substance for linen as do those of the Common Flax. A light-blue species, the Narrow-leaved Pale Flax, (*Linum angustifolium*,) is very similar to it, but the flowers are paler in colour. It is frequent, during June and July, on the sandy pastures of our island, especially those which are near the sea. Its leaves are very narrow, tapering to a point.

GREAT NETTLE.

GREAT NETTLE.—*Urtica dioica.*

Class Monœcia. *Order* Tetrandria. *Nat. Ord.* Urticeæ. Nettle Tribe.

This well-known plant of our every wayside has, at some period or other, inflicted a wound on almost all who have sought for wild flowers. Its green blossoms, tinged sometimes with purplish-red, hang in clusters upon its dark furrowed stem in July and August. The leaves are beset with numerous hairs, each with so fine a point that it can easily penetrate the skin, and being in itself a tube, which conveys poison from a little gland at the base. This species is, however, less virulent than the rare Roman Nettle, (*Urtica pilulifera*,) which grows about walls, especially near the sea, and which leaves a much greater irritation after the touch. The sting of our native species is, however, far outdone by those of hotter climes. Thus a nettle of India, (*Urtica crenulata*,) though touched ever so slightly, causes inflammation in the finger, which gradually extends itself to all the limbs, and causes intense suffering for several days; while the celebrated nettle of Timor, called by the natives Daounsetan,

or Devil's Leaf, produces effects which are said to last a year, and sometimes to cause death.

Our common nettle grows all over Europe, as well as in Barbary, Siberia, and Japan. At least thirty distinct species of insects in our native land derive their support from its stems and foliage; its tender shoots are in early spring boiled for a table vegetable, and a strong decoction of its leaves will curdle milk without imparting a disagreeable flavour, while the fibres of its stalk are, like those of hemp, capable of being made into ropes, cloth, and paper. The juices are said to be useful in stopping the leaks of casks, and other wooden vessels. For this purpose the green nettles are rubbed over the apertures, and the juice entering in, coagulates and prevents the contents from running out. This result is obtained by the application of the plant for a few minutes.

Besides the two named species, we have a much smaller kind, which is a very common plant. The Lesser Nettle (*Urtica urens*) grows on waste and cultivated grounds. It is of a brighter green than the other, and blossoms from June till October.

SALAD BURNET.

SALAD BURNET.—*Poterium Sanguisorba.*

Class Monœcia. *Order* Polyandria. *Nat. Ord.* Rosaceæ. Rose Tribe.

This plant is very abundant on dry pastures, especially on such as have a chalky soil. On chalk cliffs, both those which tower above the shore, and which skirt the green lanes of England, the Salad Burnet is very general, though it is not frequent in Scotland or Ireland. The sprays of dark green leaflets are almost as ornamental as the blossoms, and they have, when bruised, a slight odour of cucumber. It is on this account that the plant received its English name, for the foliage was formerly used in salads. Its use, like that of other of our wild herbs, is now almost forgotten, since so many good edible vegetables are reared in our gardens at little cost; and Lamb's Lettuce, and Old Man's Pepper, and Salad Burnet are left ungathered in the field, save when the rambler there takes them for his nosegay of wild flowers. The plant, while young and green, was also sometimes steeped in wine, which was with this addition considered very exhilarating; and a kind of medicinal beverage was made by its infusion,

which was believed to be a valuable medicine in many complaints. The "cool tankard," too, once so highly enjoyed, was thought to be improved either by Burnet or the still more renowned Borage; and hence the botanic name of the genus, from *poterion*, a drinking-cup. It was formerly sown on dry soils, with Trefoil, as an herbage plant; and Shakspere refers to

"The even mead, that erst brought sweetly forth
The freckled Cowslip, Burnet, and sweet Clover;"

but it is not cultivated in the present day. The flowers are of greenish purple, and the upper blossoms in each head have crimson tufted pistils; while from the lower ones hang numerous delicate thread-like stamens, which render the plant very beautiful.

We have but one British species of this genus. The plant called Common Burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*) is, however, very nearly allied to it. Both the foliage and flower are much larger than those represented by the engraving, and the heads of blossom are oblong in form, and of a browner hue. It grows, too, on a very different soil, and is not uncommon, from June to September, in moist meadows.

SHEPHERD'S NEEDLE

SHEPHERD'S NEEDLE.—*Scandix Pecten.*

Class PENTANDRIA. *Order* DIGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* UMBELLIFERÆ. UMBELLIFEROUS TRIBE.

THERE is something very pleasing in the old English names of many of our wild flowers. They are connected with rural haunts and habits, and bear with them remembrances of those old simplers and herbalists, who, though they might have greatly overrated the virtues of plants, yet found out many things respecting them which have proved of use to succeeding generations. Very often, too, they are significant of some obvious feature of the plant, or some property which distinguishes it. Thus, the Shepherd's Purse has its seeds in little heart-shaped pouches, formed like the purses of olden times; and the Shepherd's Weather-glass foretells the rain by closing up its petals; and our Shepherd's Needle has very peculiar seed-vessels, growing in clusters of five or six, long, and tapering to a point, and each as large, in some specimens, as a packing-needle. The plant has in an earlier stage

small clusters of tiny white flowers, and is very abundant in corn-fields during June and July.

Its foliage is of a bright green, its stems and seed-vessels are rather rough on the surface, and the plant varies in height from a few inches to a foot. Its botanic name is taken from the Greek word *to prick*, because of its sharp-pointed seed-vessels; and in some rural districts it has also the familiar names of Venus's Comb, and Needle Chervil. It is thought to be the same plant named by the Greeks, and to have been eaten by them boiled as greens. We have but one British species of the genus.

It is an umbelliferous plant, and belongs to a family the plants of which have a great resemblance to each other. They have all white or yellow flowers, growing on rays around a central point, like the spokes of an umbrella. The corolla has five petals, five stamens, and two pistils. Their flowers enliven the grassy spots in early spring-time and through the summer. Several of our table vegetables, as the carrot, are umbelliferous plants.

COMMON MOUSE-EAR HAWKWEED

COMMON MOUSE-EAR HAWKWEED.

Hieracium Pilosella.

Class SYNGENESIA. *Order* ÆQUALIS. *Nat. Ord.* COMPOSITÆ. COMPOUND FLOWERS.

THE Hawkweed family is one of the most perplexing, not only to the unpractised botanist, but also to those who have studied plants long and well. Sir W. Hooker calls it a "troublesome genus," and all who have attempted to identify its species have found it so. A great difference of opinion exists among scientific men as to the number of species, some considering certain points in various kinds of a permanent nature, others as only occasional. All the Hawkweeds, like the Mouse-Ear, have yellow flowers, but this species is readily distinguished from the rest by its creeping shoots, which run over or just beneath the surface of the soil. The blossoms are of a bright lemon colour, and in most of them the outer florets are striped with red beneath; and as the young unclosed flower-buds often exhibit the same bright colour, this plant in its different stages of growth is exceedingly varied and

beautiful. Long hairs are thinly scattered over the leaves, the under surfaces of which are of a whitish-grey, and the young shoots are of the same colour. This plant is very abundant everywhere on dry sunny banks, flowering from May till the end of July.

Among the strange fancies respecting flowers which the ancients entertained, was that which ascribed to the juices of this family of plants the power to strengthen the vision of birds of prey. Hawks were supposed to resort with their young ones for this purpose to the Hawkweed. Hence the scientific name of the genus, which has a synonym in almost every country in Europe. Thus we have Hawkweed, and the Germans call the plant Habichtskraut, and the French, Épervière. Several of the Hawkweeds are very pretty flowers, and we have many brought from other lands to decorate our gardens. One native species is also cultivated as a border flower. This is the large handsome Orange Hawkweed, (*Hieracium aurantiacum*,) with hairs on its stalk, which are black at the base; hence it is often called Grim the Collier.

COMMON BRAMBLE, OR BLACKBERRY.

COMMON BRAMBLE; OR, BLACK-BERRY.—*Rubus fruticosus.*

Class ICOSANDRIA. *Order* POLYGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* ROSACEÆ. ROSE TRIBE.

FEW are unacquainted with a plant whose fruits are so pleasing to the simple taste of childhood and whose white flowers, sometimes tinged with pink, decorate every hedge during July and August. Elliott has said of it,

"Though woodbines flaunt and roses grow
O'er all the fragrant bowers,
Thou need'st not be ashamed to show
Thy satin-threaded flowers;
For dull the eye, the heart as dull,
That cannot feel how fair,
Amid all beauty, beautiful
Thy tender blossoms are."

This, as well as some others of the genus, is a biennial woody plant, producing suckers from the root, which ripen and bear leaves one year, and flowers and fruits the next. Pliny said that the propagation of trees by layers was taught the ancients by the bramble-bush. Knapp has observed of both this and the Dewberry, (*Rubus cæsius,*) that they may almost be considered as evergreens, and adds, that we have perhaps no other shrubby plant naturally deciduous except the Privet. These shrubs may be often seen with many green or

purplish leaves on their boughs when all others, save the Ivy and the Holly, are stripped of their summer honours.

The ancients held the notion that both flower and fruit of the bramble were efficacious against the bite of serpents; and that the young shoots, eaten as salad, served to fasten the loosened teeth, was an old fancy in our own country. The green twigs have been used for dyeing; the stems are employed for thatching cottages; and the fruits are preserved or eaten in puddings. In Sweden the berries of the Arctic Bramble, (*Rubus Arcticus*,) as well as those of the Cloudberry, (*Rubus Chamæmorus*,) are highly prized for various domestic uses. The berries of both these species are larger than our Blackberry. The Cloudberry is found on Alpine moors in this country, and has an agreeable flavour. It is much eaten both by the Laplanders and Norwegians. The Arctic Bramble is found in Scotland, but rarely. The genus is named from the Celtic word *Rub*, red, from the colour of some of the fruits. The common Raspberry is included in it, and is sometimes found wild in the north of our island. Gerarde calls it *Raspis*, or Hindberry.

KNOTTED FIG-WORT.

KNOTTED FIG-WORT.—*Scrophularia nodosa.*

Class DIDYNAMIA. *Order* ANGIOSPERMIA. *Nat. Ord.* SCROPHULARINEÆ.—FIG-WORT TRIBE.

THIS is a frequent plant in woods and moist grounds. The dingy greenish-purple flowers appear in June and July, and the leaves are heart-shaped at the base, and taper to a point, being notched like the teeth of a saw. The upper leaves are small, but lower down the stem they are two or three inches in length. The stem is square, and rises to the height of three or four feet, so that the loose cluster of small flowers is an inconspicuous part of this tall plant. This species is named from its knotted root; but another species is equally common, and generally found close by rivers and streams. This is the Water Fig-wort, or Water Betony (*Scrophularia aquatica*). The flowers resemble those of the engraving; but it is a stouter, more compact plant, and the notches and ends of the leaves are rounder. There is one feature, too, which at once distinguishes it: the stem is square, like that of the knotted kind, but its angles, instead of being blunt, have on them a thin green expansion, which renders it what the botanist

would call winged. It has a disagreeable odour, like that of the Elder-tree, and both species are usually considered unwholesome, and are disliked by cattle. That the Water Fig-wort may be used as food, has, however, been proved; for during the celebrated siege of Rochelle by Cardinal Richelieu, in 1628, the soldiers, when in great distress, resorted to the roots of various plants, and were in their extremity mainly supported by those of this Fig-wort. The French to this day call the plant *Herbe du Siège*, in memory of the event. The Rev. C. A. Johns, in his "Flowers of the Field," remarks that the stems of this plant, though hollow and succulent, are rigid when dead, and prove very troublesome to anglers, owing to their lines becoming entangled in the withered capsules.

The flowers of the Fig-wort are very attractive to several insects, and are said to be especially resorted to by wasps. There are two other species besides those named: the Balm-leaved Fig-wort (*Scrophularia scorodonia*), and the Yellow Fig-wort (*Scrophularia vernalis*), but they are not common flowers.

PERFOLIATE YELLOW WORT.

PERFOLIATE YELLOW WORT.—*Chlora perfoliata.*

Class OCTANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* GENTIANEÆ. GENTIAN TRIBE.

THIS plant is very ornamental to the grassy parts of the chalky cliffs, or to the verdure which clothes our hill sides. It is well named Yellow Wort, for not only are the blossoms of a full bright yellow colour, but the whole plant affords a good dye of that hue. It flowers from July till September, at which season yellow blossoms are so prevalent, that they colour the scene almost as much as the Buttercups of spring tint the places where they abound. Hawkweeds, from a delicate lemon to a full orange colour, are everywhere abundant; Ragworts, bright as the golden sunbeam, and Hawks'-beards, and Sow-thistles, and Goats'-beards, which open only to the cloudless sky, rival the bright tints of the Dandelions, which glitter like stars among the grasses. The leaves of the Yellow Wort are joined at the base, so that the stalk goes through them, and hence its specific name. Both foliage and

stems are thickly covered with that pale sea-green bloom, which, like the grey powder on the plum, may be rubbed off by the finger; the plant too is remarkably subject to attacks of mildew. It is about a foot high, and is a common flower on chalky hilly places in the middle and south of England, and grows well near the sea, as on the cliffs at Dover, where it is remarkably abundant and luxuriant. It is not common in Scotland, though found on the chalky lands of almost all the countries of Europe.

The genus Chlora was thus named from the Greek word *yellow*, from the colour of its flowers. It is intensely bitter, and belongs to the same natural order as the Gentians. The bitter principle exists in a greater or less degree in all these Gentianeæ, and is tonic in its nature; that of the Chlora, though not so powerful as in the Gentian, may be used medicinally in the same cases as those in which the latter plant would be employed.

WILD THYME.—*Thymus Serpyllum.*

Class Didynamia. *Order* Gymnospermia. *Nat. Ord.* Labiatæ.
The Labiate Tribe.

It is pleasant to wander over the "bank whereon the Wild Thyme blows," and to breathe the air which, in July and August, is fragrant with the odour of its purple flowers and aromatic leaves. It is very abundant on dry hilly pastures, and Dr. Armstrong, in his celebrated poem on the Art of Preserving Health, recommends such spots as peculiarly salubrious.

> "Mark where the dry champaign
> Swells into cheerful hills; where Marjoram
> And Thyme, the love of bees, perfume the air,
> There bid thy roofs, high on the basking steep,
> Ascend; there light thy hospitable fires."

Doubtless the pure air of such places strengthens the human frame, and we know well that sheep flourish where Thyme is plentiful. It was long thought that the value of the animal was increased by feeding on Thyme, but this is generally known to be an error. Mr. Bowles, the author of the "Sheep-walks in Spain," says that sheep are not fond

of aromatic plants, and that they will carefully push aside the Thyme to get at the grass growing beneath. He adds that they never touch it, except when walking upon it, when they will catch at anything.

The odour of the Wild Thyme is increased when we tread upon it, and its flavour is very similar to that of the kind cultivated in the kitchen-garden; like that plant, too, it yields a strong essential oil. It was owing to its grateful aroma that the genus derived its name from the Greek word signifying mental vigour, its balsamic odour being supposed to strengthen the animal spirits. Country people make the Thyme into tea for curing head-ache, and also consider it a certain cure for nightmare. Few wild plants vary more than this in size. When growing on dry exposed downs it is small and close to the ground, but when springing up among the Furze and Broom and Ling, and other plants of the Heath land, its stalk is often a foot high, and its cluster of flowers much larger. The leaves, too, are in some plants hairy, and in others quite smooth. It is the only British species of the genus.

DYER'S GREEN-WEED.—*Genista Tinctoria.*

Class DIADELPHIA. *Order* DECANDRIA. *Nat. Ord.* LEGUMINOSÆ. PEA AND BEAN TRIBE.

ANOTHER familiar name for this plant is, Woad-waxen. It is frequent in England, on pastures, field-borders and thickets, and is common, too, in the Lowlands of Scotland. Its pale yellow butterfly-shaped flowers open in July and August. The stem of the plant is about one or two feet high, and in some specimens the blossoms become double, as in those which grow on the rocks near Ilkley, in Yorkshire. The plant yields a good yellow colour, and is used by dyers. The author of the "Journal of a Naturalist" says, "Our poorer people, a few years ago, used to collect it by cart-loads, about the month of July, and the season of Woad-waxen was a little harvest to them; but it interfered greatly with our hay-making. Women could gain about two shillings a-day clear of expenses by gathering it." The collecting the Dyer's-weed is a very laborious employment, as the roots extend a good way into the soil. The writer referred

to adds that the trade is not so common now, and is discouraged by the farmers. This plant is seldom eaten by cattle. It grows in most countries of Europe, and is, by people in villages, used as a medicine for various maladies.

We have three wild species of Genista. The Needle Green-weed, or Petty Whin (*Genista Anglica*), is not unfrequent on moist heaths and moory grounds. It is a low shrub; its stems are tough, about a foot high, and studded at intervals with sharp thorns. The flowers are very similar to those of the engraving. The Hairy Green-weed (*Genista pilosa*) is a more rare plant. It has no thorns, and its yellow flowers are smaller than those of the other species. They bloom in May, and again in Autuma. The stems are much gnarled and branched, and the leaves are often covered on the under surface with silky hairs.

The genus received its name from the Celtic Gen, a small bush, whence also is derived the French name of the plant, *Genet*. From the same origin is the name of the Plantagenet family.

COMMON DAISY.

COMMON DAISY.—*Bellis perennis.*

Class SYNGENESIA. *Order* SUPERFLUA. *Nat. Ord.* COMPOSITÆ. COMPOUND FLOWERS.

THERE is no flower which seems so peculiarly to belong to our native land as the Daisy. Springing up in every meadow, in "times unkind," as well as on the summer day, the delight of childhood, how often does it seem to recal

> "Some brief delight,
> Some memory that had taken flight,
> Some chime of fancy, wrong or right,
> Or stray invention."

English and Scottish poets have sung its praises, from Chaucer downwards, who called it Day's Eye, because its flowers are shut at night, and who says it is "of all flouris the floure." It is indeed what Wordsworth describes it, "the poet's darling;" and not the less so, that, like the wind, it comes to every field. In the north it is called Bairnwort, because it is loved by children. And when the traveller sees its rosy-tipped flowers among the grass of other lands, as at Madeira, where it is naturalized, or beholds it cherished in a garden-pot in India, it brings back a thought of his early days. "Many little flowers," says Backhouse, when in Australia, "begin to enamel the ground, one of which is too much

like an English Daisy not to excite pleasing recollections, associated with that little flower, though others bespeak the antipodes of England." Leyden, when in India, wrote of his longings to look on the Daisy flower; Pringle, in his day-dream in the African desert, saw the meadows "gemmed with the primrose and gowan;" and our late lamented botanist Gardner had, in the interior of Brazil, a thought of the Daisy—

"I wander alone, and often look
For the primrose bank by the rippling brook;
Which, waken'd to life by vernal beams,
An emblem of youth and beauty seems;
And I ask where the violet and daisy grow,
But a breeze-born voice, in whisperings low,
Swept from the North o'er Southern seas,
Tells me I'm far from the land of these."

The Daisy is not relished by cattle, and is disliked even by geese. Its leaves, though acrid, are sometimes boiled and eaten, and they were, in former times, considered a valuable application to recent wounds. The Italians call the flower *Pratolina*, Meadow Flower; or *Fiore de Primavera*, Flower of Spring; and the French term it *La petite Marguérite*. It is the only British species.

COMMON VERVAIN.

COMMON VERVAIN.—*Verbena officinalis.*

Class DIDYNAMIA. *Order* ANGIOSPERMIA. *Nat. Ord.* VERBENACEÆ.—VERVAIN TRIBE.

So small are the lilac blossoms of this plant, that it wins little regard from any but the botanist. Yet the Vervain was once a plant of great repute,—the holy herb of our forefathers, and full of symbolic meanings in yet older times. The ancients gathered it with many ceremonies, and employed it when making treaties with ambassadors, in sacrificial rites and incantations. They had their Verbenalia, at which time temples were strewed and sanctified with Vervain, the beasts for sacrifice were filleted with its garlands, and its flowery sprays were laid on the altar. Pliny, as translated by Holland, says, "It is used in casting lots, telling fortunes, and foreshewing future events by way of prophesie. They add, moreover, that if the halle or dining-chamber be sprinkled with the water wherein Vervain lay steeped, all that be at the table shall be very pleasant, and make merrie more jocundlie. Of all hearbes there is none more honoured among the Romans than Hierobotane, the sacred plant Vervaine. It is that hearbe which our ambassadors use to carry

with them when they declare war, and to give defiance unto our enemies. With this hearbe the festivall table of Jupiter is wont to be swept and cleansed with great solemnitie; with it our houses also be rubbed and hallowed for to drive away ill spirits."

Many persons now living can remember how general a practice it was, some years since, to hang a piece of Vervain around the neck of a child to avert infection; some believing it to be an amulet or charm, others thinking it a herb of powerful properties. Besides this, it was taken medicinally, or worn to cure existing disease, and was deemed efficacious in thirty different complaints, in some of which it was particularly recommended that it should be tied round the neck with white ribbon.

The Vervain is a slender plant, often two feet high, with few leaves. These are rather rough, and cut at the edges, and the flowers are somewhat distant from each other. It grows on waste places, especially near houses, and blooms in July and August. It is the only British species, and is not now believed to possess any valuable medicinal properties.

RED BARTSIA

RED BARTSIA.—*Bartsia Odontites.*

Class DIDYNAMIA. *Order* ANGIOSPERMIA. *Nat. Ord.* SCROPHULARINEÆ.—FIG-WORT TRIBE.

THOSE who are not very observant of plants, would be likely to leave this unnoticed, as the dull purplish colour of its upper leaves and flower-cups renders it unattractive. Yet it is, upon examination, a pretty flower, though scentless. That Linnæus admired some species of Bartsia seems probable, from the fact that he named the genus after his beloved friend John Bartsch, of whom he gives an interesting though somewhat sad account in his *Flora Suecica*. The reddish-purple blooms of this plant appear in July and August. It is very common in corn-fields, and on field borders and other waste places, and is usually about eight or ten inches in height.

We have two other native species, which are readily distinguished from the Red kind by their differently coloured blossoms. The Yellow Viscid Bartsia (*Bartsia viscosa*) is by no means a common plant, though it grows very plentifully in pastures, in many parts of the West of England, and more rarely in the South-west of Scotland and the South of Ireland. It is much more showy than our

common species, and has large yellow handsome flowers, which have the odour of musk. The plant would remind one of the common Yellow Rattle of the meadows, but that the blossoms grow imbedded among the leaves.

A still rarer species is the Alpine Bartsia (*Bartsia alpina*), which is found on some rocky alpine pastures in Yorkshire, Westmoreland, and other northern counties of England, as well as on Scottish mountains. It flowers in June and July. Like alpine plants in general, its stem is but little raised above the ground, and its flowers large. The low mode of growth, the strong and often crooked or procumbent stem, the crowded appearance of leaves and blossoms, as well as an excessive development of roots, are so characteristic of alpine plants, that a botanist can at a glance distinguish them amid a large collection of dried flowers.

The flowers of the Alpine Bartsia are of a deep purplish-blue colour, very downy, and the upper leaves are often tinged with purple. Some species of the genus from North America and Siberia are found in gardens, but they are not easy of cultivation.

LESSER BROOM RAPE.—*Orobanche minor.*

Class DIDYNAMIA. *Order* ANGIOSPERMIA. *Nat. Ord.* OROBANCHEÆ.—BROOM-RAPE TRIBE.

THERE is something so peculiar in the general aspect of parasitic plants, that they may usually be at once recognised as such, by any one familiar with flowers. The true parasite fixes on the root or trunk of another vegetable, deriving its nourishment from its juices, and is therefore not like the moss or lichen, which hangs on the tree, but draws no nutriment from it. We have few native parasitic plants; and the greater number of them have that brownish dull tinge which at first sight would lead us to suppose them to be half withered. They are distinguished, too, by the absence of leaves.

In many cases parasites grow only on certain plants, in others they infest various vegetables. Of the Lesser Broom Rape there are several varieties, which grow on the roots of clover, ivy, sea carrot, and other plants. It is not an unfrequent flower in the clover-field, during the months of July and August. It varies from half a foot to more than a foot and a half in height, and its blossoms are, in its varieties, more or less tinged with a dingy purple and yel-

low colour, while the stem and scales are in this, as in all the species, of a dull reddish brown. All the Broom Rapes are of a very acrid nature, and are rejected by almost all animals.

The literal translation of the generic name, Strangle-Vetch, is very applicable, for they peculiarly infest plants of the Leguminous tribe, such as have, like the Vetches, their seeds in legumes or pods, and they are sadly destructive to them. It is said that the seeds of these parasites will often lie dormant in the soil for many years, till some young plant, suitable for their nourishment, vegetates near them, when they, too, sprout and take possession of the points of its roots, which enlarge and serve as their base.

Different botanists enumerate various numbers of species, some considering that slight peculiarities of structure form specific distinctions, others regarding these marks as only accidental, and forming varieties merely. The Greater Broom Rape is much like the plant of our engraving, but a great deal larger, and often above two feet high. It is common on Furze and Broom, and its succulent stem is as thick as a finger.

COMMON PELLITORY OF THE WALL.

COMMON PELLITORY OF THE WALL.

Parietaria officinalis.

Class TETRANDRIA. *Order* MONOGYNIA. *Nat. Ord.* URTICEÆ. NETTLE TRIBE.

OUR old walls are often made verdant by the Pellitory. As Knapp has observed, it may be seen in such places seeking the calcareous nitrate found there, this salt appearing essential to its vigour and health. Large masses of the plant may be found on rocky places near the sea, in some spots almost lying over the surface on which it grows, in others rising erect and branched, a foot and a half in height, and losing much of the downy covering which invests both the flower and foliage of the smaller specimens. The little reddish-purple blossoms crowd closely between the stem and leaf, and appear on the plant from June to September. The manner in which the stamens shed their pollen, or yellow powder, is very singular. These minute threads, on their first appearance, all bend inwards; but no sooner is the pollen matured and fit to be discharged, than the warmth of the sun, the light tread of an insect, or the smallest touch with the point of a pin, makes them fly back and throw out a little cloud of dust. This elasticity is owing to the jointed structure of

these tiny threads, and it may be observed on any warm sunny morning, when thousands of these small stamens are exploding, and dispersing the pollen.

The leaves of this plant, when strewed in granaries, are said to destroy the Corn-weevil; and it contains so large a quantity of nitre, that in making an extract from it, the whole mass has been found to take fire. Curtis remarks, that the same degree of cold, thirty-one of Fahrenheit, which strips the mulberry-tree of its leaves, will destroy the herbage of the Pellitory. Pellitory tea is a favourite medicine in country places for a large number of disorders.

The name of the genus is derived from *paries*, a wall. We have but one British species, but several have been introduced into gardens from other countries; their native soil being generally that of the old wall or waste place by the wayside. They have all greenish or purplish flowers, and are not very ornamental to the garden. The celebrated Pellitory of Spain, sold by druggists as a remedy for tooth-ache, is a species of chamomile, brought from the South of Europe.

The other native species of the genus, the Sweet Woodruff, (*Asperula odorata*,) is far better known than this. The flowers are white, in clusters, and, like those of our engraving, in the form of the jessamine, and the leaves grow in whorls around the stem, and resemble those of the common Cleavers. This plant has no odour when fresh, but is deliciously fragrant when dried. Dr. Wallich says that its flowers, infused in water, make a tea far superior to the Chinese teas. The Germans use the plant to flavour vinous liquors. The leaves will preserve their odour for years, and if laid among clothes, are an excellent preservative from moths. Old records found in the books of London churches, show that they were once hung up in garlands within their walls, and few of our native plants would be more suitable for the purpose. The scent is like that of newly made hay.

The genus received its name from the Latin *asper*, rough, some of the species having, like the Sweet Woodruff, rough leaves and stems.

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